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LD0911140088 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

The condition of South Lebanese Army (SLA) commander General Antoine Lahd deteriorated and became "serious" following an operation in Haifa's Rambam Hospital, Jerusalem radio reported. Lahd lost a large amount of blood as a result of his wounds and required complex surgery, the radio noted.

The IDF chief of staff disclosed that Lahd ignored a recent warning by his security men about his female assailant, who had free access to his house, IDF radio reported.

In southern Lebanon, the SLA killed three "terrorists" in a clash west of Jazzin, according to Jerusalem radio. AFP reported that leftist forces were on "maximum alert" in anticipation of an Israeli reprisal for the attempt to kill Lahd.

In West Beirut, Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran announced the appointment of Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib to fill the "vacant" post of Army commander, according to Beirut radio.

Israel

Coalition Prospects—A Jerusalem television report on the coalition negotiations noted that SHAS holds the "key" for the formation of a government but is divided internally on whether to support Likud or the Alignment. The party's official position will be decided by a meeting of the Council of Sages the night of 12 November.

Likud leaders are nevertheless optimistic that Yitzhaq Shamir will form a government, the television said.

Alignment leader Shim'on Peres told IDF radio that he is still seeking to form a government and he said there are leading people in SHAS, Degel Hatora, and Agudat Yisra'el who are "prepared to offer their hand to the peace process."

Reaction to Bush Victory—Shim'on Peres stated in his IDF radio interview that he hopes George Bush will choose "someone like Shultz" as secretary of state in the new U.S. Administration.

Peres added he is convinced that the United States "will not agree to there being no peace process."

Among other initial reaction, Jerusalem radio noted a call by Palestinian lawyer Fayiz Abu Rahmah for Bush to hold "more contacts with the PLO" and allow the PLO to attend an international conference.

Demolitions, Violence—Security forces demolished around 35 buildings built without licenses by Israeli Arabs in the Jordan Rift Valley and in the Al-Taiyiba area, Jerusalem radio reported, noting that 20 people were injured in clashes with police in Al-Taiyiba.

Meanwhile, an Israeli woman was seriously injured in the head by a stone thrown on a road near Kibbutz Eyal, IDF radio disclosed.

Palestinian Affairs

PNC Session—Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, announced that work on the draft documents to be submitted at the upcoming PNC session is complete, Algiers Voice of Palestine radio disclosed.

The PNC will discuss forming a provisional government and putting the West Bank and Gaza under UN trusteeship for a transitional period.

Palestinians Deported—Egypt announced its decision to deport eight Palestinians living in Cairo believed to be planning to blow up the Israeli Consulate in Alexandria and cross the border to carry out operations in Israel, MENA reported.

Iran-Iraq Peace Talks

Following further talks with his Iranian counterpart in Geneva, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz stressed Iraq's unwillingness to divide UN Resolution 598 into independent paragraphs, Baghdad radio reported. He noted, however, that the exchange of POW's is a humanitarian issue and should therefore be isolated from the political talks.

Iraq has sent a memorandum to the International Committee of the Red Cross announcing its readiness to immediately begin the exchange of sick and wounded POW's if Iran agrees, INA reported.

Iran

Foreign Relations—Talks with Great Britain in Vienna 8 November will lead to normalization of relations, Tehran television reported. IRNA and London PRESS ASSOCIATION, however, indicated that a further round of talks will be necessary and relations will not resume before the end of the year.

First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati was received by the amir of Kuwait on a tour of the Gulf states, IRNA noted. During talks that focused on plans to guarantee regional security, Besharati reiterated Iran's willingness to normalize relations with Saudi Arabia.

Internal Situation—Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi suggested "fundamental changes" in the administrative system may be made to ensure progress in industries, IRNA reported. He said a campaign against corruption is ready to begin.

"Informed sources" cited by the clandestine Iran's Flag of Freedom radio said Iran's rulers are planning Musavi's dismissal.

Algeria

The new government headed by Kasdi Merba will include "new men," experts, and other public figures known for their efficiency, integrity, and competence, Algiers radio predicted.

The radio said the Merba government will have to introduce reforms on a wide range of issues including the status of companies, agriculture, education, youth employment, and the national financial system.

One immediate problem facing the government is the large number of industrial disputes currently taking place, the radio noted.

Egypt

The prosecutor's office has begun investigations into the cause of an explosion in the Cairo home of the U.S. military attache in which he was severely burned, AL-WAFD revealed.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Saudi-Kuwaiti Talks—Saudi Arabia and Kuwait agreed to set up a joint committee comprising the foreign, interior, and oil ministers to follow up cooperation issues, SPA reported. The agency noted that the agreement was the result of a visit by the Kuwaiti prime minister to Riyadh.

Syrian-Tunisian Talks—Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received visiting Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam who conveyed a message from the Syrian president, Hafiz al-Asad, Tunis radio reported. Khaddam stated afterward that views were "identical" on topics discussed, according to Damascus radio.

Husayn Tour—Jordanian King Husayn visited Kuwait, Bahrain, and Qatar 8-9 November for talks with the amirs of each country, according to KUNA and WAKH.

Africa Talks in Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received the leaders of Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Uganda, JANA reported. According to Accra radio, discussions centered on the current situation in Africa, particularly Chad.

On his departure, Burkina Faso's Blaise Compaore announced to JANA that agreement was reached on programs related to African revolutionaries in Libya.

JANA also noted that a cooperation document was signed with Uganda.

Afghanistan

Resistance forces fired seven rockets on Kabul, injuring two civilians, Kabul radio reported. According to Islamabad radio, the mujahidin captured another garrison in Nangarhar Province, where the opposition has recently come under attack by Scud missiles and MiG-27 jets.

In another development, BAKHTAR alleged that resistance leaders recently received 10,000 Pakistani identity cards to distribute among Afghan refugees so they can vote for the Muslim League Party in the upcoming elections.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Leaders End Work on Draft Documents

LD0811202088 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Brother Bassam Abu Sharif, information adviser to brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], announced that the Palestinian leaders have ended work on the draft documents which will be submitted to the PNC in its forthcoming extraordinary session. He said in a press statement that the members of the council will be invited to voice their opinion on the forming of a provisional government and regarding a project which requires putting the West Bank and Gaza under the trusteeship of the United Nations for a short period considered as a transitional period pending the beginning of the peace talks.

Brother Bassam Abu Sharif stressed that the PNC emergency session will be held on 12 November in the Algerian capital. [passage omitted]

PNC's Al-Hasan on Declaration of Independence

NC0811184388 Paris AFP in English 1832 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Nicosia, Nov 8 (AFP)—The Palestine Liberation Organization is to call on a major meeting Saturday to pass a declaration of independence linking Palestinian rights with a U.N. resolution dating back to 1947, a senior PLO official said in an interview published Tuesday.

The Palestine National Council (PNC), or parliament-in-exile, will also discuss a recommendation to allow the PLO to establish an interim government, Khalid al-Hasan said.

Mr al-Hasan, cited by the MIDEAST MIRROR newsletter received here, said that the PNC in a meeting that opens Saturday in Algiers would be called upon to issue a declaration of Palestinian independence "on two grounds."

"The national rights of the people of Palestine" would be linked to U.N. Resolution 181 providing for independent Arab and Jewish states and a "special international regime for the city of Jerusalem," the official said.

Mr al-Hasan, head of the PNC Foreign Relations Committee, said the PLO Executive Committee would also call on the PNC to allow the committee and the organisation's Central Council "to set up and announce, when they deem fit, an interim government."

The Executive Committee will recommend seven political guidelines for the future government on:

—the Palestinians' right to self-determination

—U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 (adopted after the 1967 and 1973 Arab-Israeli wars, guaranteeing the independence of states in the region)

—the proposed international peace conference under U.N. auspices

—the principle of a Palestinian state alongside Israel

—the projected confederation between the Palestinian state and Jordan

—the refugees and their right of return

—terrorism as opposed to national liberation.

DFLP's 'Abd Rabbuh on UN Resolutions

JN0811092588 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 29 Oct 88 p 18

[Interview with Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, DFLP assistant secretary general and PLO Executive Committee member, by Rashid Khashshanah in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Khashshanah] How far has the Political Committee reached in drafting the Palestinian independence document?

['Abd Rabbuh] The substance of this document would be to assert the sovereignty of the Palestinian people, represented by the PLO, over the occupied Palestinian territories and the right of our people to establish an independent state on these territories as the only means to reach a just and lasting solution to the conflict in the region. Deliberations are currently under way on the Palestinian as well as Arab and international levels to draft this document, whose basic elements are already agreed upon; namely, that the agreement would stem from Resolution No 181 which stipulates the establishment of a Palestinian Arab state and a Jewish state.

It is understood that one side of this resolution was carried out through the collusion of several regional and international parties. The objective of that collusion was also to prevent the establishment of the independent Palestinian state. Therefore, when we base the independence plan on Resolution No 181 it stems from international legitimacy. It is this resolution which gave birth to the State of Israel.

The United Nations, which accepted Israel's membership, is in no position to deny or reject the implementation of the second part of the resolution. The independence plan stipulates that the independent Palestinian state shall be a democratic state abiding by all international pacts and resolutions. Therefore, we attach great importance to this document, which is why we are studying it with all friendly and allied forces to secure the unanimous international support required to convene an international conference with the participation of the PLO on an equal footing with all the other parties concerned.

[Khashshanah] There are still pending issues concerning the drafting of the documents; foremost, the position on Resolution No 242. How will this dispute be settled?

['Abd Rabbuh] The question is not one of dispute over Resolution No 242. It was not the PLO which drafted this resolution and made it a basis for the international conference. It was an agreement among all the parties concerned in the region and internationally to consider Resolution No 242 as a basis for solving the conflict. Our position is that we do not object to these parties considering Resolution No 242 as a basis for solving that part of the conflict in the region concerning Israel's withdrawal from the Arab territories which were occupied since 1967.

In this respect, we believe Resolution No 242 contains useful elements since it affirms the principle of withdrawal and the nonacquisition of territory by force. However, we have always said this resolution does not tackle and solve the substance of the conflict, which is the Palestine question. Therefore, we do not consider it an adequate basis for a solution, although, as I said, we do not object to the elements it contains and which were affirmed in the resolutions of the successive Arab summits. A comprehensive solution requires a stipulation concerning the Palestinian people's right to self-determination as a basis for discussing a settlement within an international conference.

[Khashshanah] So you are not against including the resolution within the independence declaration?

['Abd Rabbuh] This is not our choice. It is the general Arab and international choice. The conflict with the U.S. and Israeli stands boils down to one basic point; namely, that an effective international conference can only be on the main basis of responding to the Palestinian people's rights.

[Khashshanah] If the general inclination at the PNC session in Algiers were to reject the [Resolution 242] proposal, would you abandon the document?

['Abd Rabbuh] Let us not precede events. We are just saying that these are points on which current discussions are being held. This is the logic which we are following in our deliberations with the various international parties, including Western Europe, and this is also the main point of the dialogue between the Soviet Union and the United States. This is the question which is being adamantly rejected by the Washington-Tel Aviv alliance to exclude the Palestine question and the PLO. Therefore, we are linking self-determination to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

[Khashshanah] Certain Palestinian leaders have informed Egypt and Jordan about the current deliberations to draft the independence document. What was the reply?

['Abd Rabbuh] So far we are only hearing vague, and sometimes conflicting, replies. While some voices in Egypt call for a provisional government and a political program to facilitate the international conference, others speak in vague general terms and advise postponing everything until the results of the Israeli and U.S. elections are known. Actually, we believe the national Palestinian interest calls for expediting the PNC session and adopting the appropriate decisions which would open better prospects for the uprising, consolidate international recognition of the Palestinian rights and the PLO, ensure further progress toward an international conference, and embarrass and confuse the U.S. and Israeli stands and deprive them of all their excuses.

No doubt, the clarity and realism of the Palestinian program and its harmony with the national interests of our people would be the uprising's reply to the hostile U.S. and Israeli policy. On the other hand, the vagueness of the program and the hestitation to adopt Palestinian political steps would indirectly serve the policy of the United States and Israel, which are trying to gain time and procrastinate in the hope they would create new elements in the regional and international situation that might serve their policy to postpone the international conference, weaken the effect of the uprising, and restore the Jordanian option.

[Kashshanah] Has Egypt advised you of the need to speed up this political step?

['Abd Rabbuh] I am saying this as clearly as possible. At first, they used to call for speeding up things. Later, they started calling for ambiguity.

[Khashshanah] What about the USSR stand? Did the USSR ask for postponement of the proclamation of Palestinian independence during the recent Palestinian delegation's visit to Moscow?

['Abd Rabbuh] The USSR is of the opinion that it is in the interest of Palestinian struggle that the PNC adopts a new stand based on the declaration of a realistic program that could achieve the objectives we have mentioned. This can take place when all the Palestinian parties reach an agreement. The USSR believes it is better for such an agreement to be reached as soon as possible. Thus, the current militant operation that will lead to the international conference with the participation of the PLO will be developed and further enhanced so the international conference may be based on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

[Khashshanah] How true is 'AL HAMISHMAR's report that Peres had sent letters to the Palestinian command through European countries asking it to help him win the elections in return for a promise to hold a dialogue with it in the international conference?

['Abd Rabbuh] Peres collaborates with the U.S. Administration and his ally Shamir to obstruct the issuance of the Palestinian decision. All of them have the same objective, that of gaining time. We have heard some voices which attributed statements to Peres, other Israeli parties, and even the United States claiming that many benefits will be gleaned from postponing the decalaration of the Palestinian stand as long as possible.

We have also listened to some who advised us that ambiguity is better than clarity and that generalities are far more useful than specific stands. This is meant to somewhat paralyze the Palestinian stand and prevent the command from exploiting the positive results that are being daily enhanced in the interest of the uprising and the Palestinian people's rights.

[Khashshanah] Does the PLO encourage Palestinians in the territories that were occupied in 1948 to participate in the Israeli elections and which party should they encourage?

['Abd Rabbuh] The question is not one of support or opposition. We call on Palestinians to wage the struggle in all fields and with all available means against the policy of wars and aggression adopted by the Zionist parties, particularly the ruling parties. Elections are one of the fields of this struggle but not its principal arena.

In spite of this, we stress the importance that the Palestinian voice should assist the forces which support a just peace, our people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state, and the withdrawal from the occupied territories. This stand acquires special importance at this stage in view of the fierce onslaught that is being launched by the Zionist forces which do not know how to confront the uprising, and whether they should confront it with the sword, with the sword and politics, or with the so-called comprehensive deportation plan.

Abu Sharif Reportedly Escapes Assault Attempt

JN0911115288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Kuwait, 9 Nov (WAKH)—Bassam Abu Sharif, information adviser to the PLO Executive Committee chairman, escaped an attempted assault in front of his house in Tunis the day before yesterday. Palestinian sources told the Kuwaiti paper AL-SIYASAH today that Abu Sharif was not hurt.

The sources added that the Palestinian leaders have adopted stringent security measures to prevent the implementation of an Israeli plan to assassinate several PLO leaders prior to the extraordinary PNC session.

Algeria

Algiers Outlines Tasks of New Government

LD0811182288 Algiers Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Excerpt] All Algeria is waiting for news that the first Merbah government has been formed with a certain amount of impatience. According to certain sources Mr Kasdi Merbah has spent the last 48 hours carrying out broad and concentrated consultations and has also drawn up the main lines of his program. The new Algerian Government could thus be presented to President Chadli Bendjedid during today at the earliest, and at the latest, on Thursday.

In any case we already know that the Merbah government will have inaugurated a new form of government which will include public figures from political circles, but also new men, experts and other public figures who will undoubtedly have at least three points in common—efficiency, integrity, and competence. We also know the main files which are awaiting the Merbah government: the autonomy of companies, the way in which agriculture is run will certainly have to be rectified, the urgent reform of national education and training, the reorganization of the national financial system and of commerce, and youth employment, to name but a few.

Mr Kasdi Merbah will have to champion all these issues and a number of others too very soon before the People's National Assembly, and it is on all these matters that national public opinion will judge the actions of the Merbah government. But beware, do not be too hasty; Mr Kasdi Merbah certainly has the reputation for being an efficient, energetic and competent man, perhaps even capable of working miracles, but he is not a magician who can solve all Algeria's biggest problems just by snapping his fingers.

More importantly, the Merbah government will certainly adopt a series of urgent and technical measures at first, but its real achievement will be to put into effect a package of reforms aimed at changing Algerian society in depth.

Right away the future Labor minister already has on his desk a delicate file regarding the large number of industrial disputes which are currently taking place here and there in the country. We note among others the strikes in certain workshops of the iron and steel complex of Hadjar and in certain production units of the industrial zone of Arzew. Yesterday about 50 workers from the communal company of Bir Khadam held a sit-in lasting several hours outside the Governorate of Algiers. The company in question was wound up 7 months ago and no measures have been taken to compensate the workers or to reemploy them in other workplaces.

One will also note that all these disputes are concerned with problems of pay, and working conditions, and very often reveal veritable situations of crisis between the workers and the management of the companies. This is, for example, the case with the Parnez hospital, where the medical and paramedical staff held a 1-hour strike yesterday, while maintaining a minimum service for emergencies and patients in hospital, as is usual. [passage omitted]

Announcement 'Very Likely' 9 Nov

LD0811202988 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Our correspondent has learned from the place where the prime minister is holding consultations that Kasdi Merbah may have concluded his extensive consultations on the formation of a new government.

He has also learned from well-informed sources that the announcement of the government is very likely to be tomorrow, Wednesday.

Egypt

Military Talks With France Open in Cairo

NC0811124088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1106 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—A joint session of talks was held between the military delegations of Egypt and France this morning. The Egyptian side was headed by Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, while the French side was led by French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement.

Also attending the meeting on the Egyptian side were Lieutenant General Mustafa al-Shadhili, commander of the Air Defense Forces; Lt Gen Muhammad Sharif al-Sadiq, commander of the Naval Forces; Major General Ahmad Nasr, chief of staff of the Air Force; and Major General Sayyid Turk, the Defense Ministry secretary general. The meeting was attended on the French side by Chief of Aviation Major General Jacques Mitterrand, Director of the Military Bureau Jacques Lankasd, official in charge of international relations Major General Eng Bernard Raytat, and political adviser to the defense minister Mark Biran.

The talks began with a closed 30-minute meeting between Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah and French Defense Minister Chevenement, after which they were joined by members of the two delegations.

Following the meeting, French Defense Minister Chevenement stated that both the Egyptian and French parties decided to renew the military cooperation protocol, especially since both countries are working for peace in the region. Both countries, he said, are independent and pursue a policy with common views on several issues, such as Chad, Lebanon, and the Middle East. He pointed out that cooperation between Egypt and France is effective and steadily improving through consultations and deep cooperation which benefit stability in both countries.

Responding to a question on the French Government's readiness to share in financing the second consignment of French Mirage 2000 aircraft, Chevenement said: We have only discussed the financing of a maintenance shop for all types of planes in Egypt.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah stated that a cooperation protocol between Egypt and France will be formulated and submitted to the competent quarters in preparation for signing. This protocol, he said, does not need to be submitted to the People's Assembly because it only lays the foundations and has no financial obligations. He noted that the protocol will define the general methods and rules of cooperation. He pointed out that the French side expressed complete readiness to establish a workshop for the repair and maintenance of various French and foreign aircraft using both French and Egyptian capital.

The workshop will be designed for repairs and overhauls of aircraft used throughout the Arab region. He noted that President Mubarak and French President Mitterrand discussed this issue during Mubarak's latest visit to France and added that a French committee will arrive in Egypt shortly to study and begin this project. He stated that they had also discussed such common issues as the joint manufacture of the air defense Sinai-23 system. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministers Confer

NC0811140778 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1241 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement. Pierre Hunt, the French ambassador to Cairo, attended the 1-hour meeting.

Following the meeting, Dr 'Abd al-Majid described the talks as extremely cordial, adding that both sides had agreed on all the matters which had been discussed. 'Abd al-Majid also noted that both countries are exerting efforts to boost the peace process.

The Egyptian foreign minister said that Egypt and France hold similar views as a result of the continuous consultations between Presidents Husni Mubarak and Francois Mitterrand, adding that these consultations reflect the good ties between the two countries.

'Abd al-Majid noted that Egypt and France continue to consult over the current developments and hold discussions on issues in all other domains. He said that his discussion with the French minister touched on the international conference for chemical weapons, due to be held in Geneva in January. 'Abd al-Majid emphasized that both countries are interested in that conference. He also stressed the need to strengthen and continue Egyptian-French coordination in all fields.

For his part, the French defense minister said that, during the talks, he and 'Abd al-Majid had reviewed the situation in Lebanon, the conditions in the occupied Arab territories, the situation in Sudan, the Palestinian issue, and the current developments in the Gulf, as well as other regional diplomatic matters and strategic issues.

The French defense minister said that the viewpoints of both countries are in complete agreement over all the issues discussed. Chevenement added that Dr 'Abd al-Majid had made certain interesting comments during the meeting, and that he will brief President Mitterrand on the Egyptian position on the issues discussed. The French defense minister concluded by saying that Presidents Mubarak and Mitterrand know each other well and meet on a regular basis.

Chevenement Leaves Cairo

NC0811171988 Cairo MENA in English 1714 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, Nov. 8 (MENA)—French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement left here this evening after a one-day visit during which he had talks with Deputy Premier and Minister of Defense Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah. Talks were focussed on ways of enhancing bilateral cooperation in defence fields.

Cameroonian Minister Booh Booh Arrives in Cairo

NC0511151788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 5 Nov (MENA)—Cameroonian Foreign Minister Jacques Roger Booh Booh arrived in Cairo this morning on an official 1-week visit to Egypt, during which he will head his country's delegation to the third session of the joint Egyptian-Cameroonian committee. Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, will head the Egyptian delegation to the session, which will begin this evening.

The two delegations will discuss various aspects of bilateral cooperation. [passage omitted]

Meets With Joint Committee

NC0511182288 Cairo MENA in English 1800 GMT 5 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, Nov 5 (MENA)—The first meeting of the third session of the joint Egyptian-Cameroon committee was held here tonight under State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Butrus Ghali and Cameroon Foreign Minister Jacques Roger Booh Booh. The meeting discussed bilateral relations in all fields as well as international and regional issues of mutual interest.

The Egyptian-Cameroon talks also covered economic ties between the two countries as the two sides agreed on increasing trade exchange between them. The joint meeting was attended by officials in various eocnomic, technical and cultural sectors.

Received By Mubarak

NC0611174288 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received the Cameroonian foreign minister at the presidential palace today. Also present at the meeting were Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali and the Cameroonian ambassador to Cairo.

Following the meeting, the Cameroonian minister stated that his visit to Cairo has given him the opportunity to negotiate the reactivation of Egyptian-Cameroonian cooperation with the Egyptian officials. They also discussed international and African issues, he said. He added that his meeting with President Mubarak has reaffirmed that Cameroon and Egypt hold the same positions in the United Nations, the OAU, the ICO, and the Nonaligned Movement.

Confers With 'Abd al-Majid

NC0911111988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Nov (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stressed that Egypt is eager to bolster its relations with the African countries in all fields. He made this statement during a meeting with Cameroonian Minister of Foreign Affairs Jacques Roger Booh Booh. During the meeting they reviewed the results of the third session of the joint Egyptian-Cameroonian committee, as well as the means of strengthening bilateral coopeation in various domains. The Cameroonian minister arrived in Cairo on Friday for a 1-week visit.

U.S. Military Attache Injured in Gas Explosion

JN0911080888 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 7 Nov 88 p 6

[Text] The U.S. military attache was severely burned when a butane gas cylinder exploded in his apartment in Al-Jizah. He was rushed to Al-Salam International Hospital for treatment, and Muhammad Ja'far, first deputy public prosecutor has been charged with the investigation.

Brigadier General Hasan Husayn, Al-Jizah fire brigade director, was informed that a fire had broken out in Building 43 in Murad Street in Al-Jizah quarter following the explosion of a butane gas cylinder. Fire engines rushed to the scene and succeeded in controlling and extinguishing the fire.

The fire broke out in the apartment of U.S. Military Attache William Francis Tusny [name as published] who sustained severe injuries. He was rushed to Al-Salam International Hospital for treatment. The fire also destroyed the contents of the apartment and caused cracks in the walls. The public prosecutor's office was notified of the incident and has begun investigations into the cause of the fire.

AL-SHA'B Analyzes 'Trap' of U.S. Aid Policy

PM0811115488 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Nov 88 p3

[Ahmad 'Abdallah report: "What Has The United States Given Us and What Has It Taken?"]

[Excerpts] The analysis and the shocking figures revealed here do not mean that the flow of U.S. funds in past years has not filled any gaps or contributed to establishing projects.

In 1974 the peace initiative between Al-Sadat and Israel attracted the whole world's attention. That initiative was nothing more than an international deal granted by Egypt—in the eyes of the world—to the United States so that it could assume the process of altering the social, psychological, and cultural ideas of the region's peoples toward the Israeli enemy so that they would accept the real situation. [passage omitted]

U.S. aid to Egypt during the 29 June 1975-30 June 1986 period totalled some $10.5 billion, consisting of loans and investment grants in the fields of agriculture, investment, commodities, and research. Only 65 percent of them have been successful. This is in addition to other remittances totaling over $1 billion, most of the agreements on which were subject to the rules and terms of U.S. Law 480, which stipulates that 5 percent of any loan must be paid in dollars in advance, and that 10 percent of the value of any consignment must be paid for when it reaches the homeland.

The result has been complete subordination to the might of the creditor and acceptance of very repressive terms imposed by an usurious creditor on an Islamic society that has allowed itself to beg in order to fill empty stomachs. The conditions include the following: The United States must remain the source of commodities and services (although its prices are nearly double those of other states);

Cargo must be transported by U.S. ships and from U.S. ports (despite the high freight prices in comparison with other states);

With regard to investment projects, a contract must be signed with a U.S. consultancy to monopolize technical consultancy services, the fees of which sometimes account for

Written U.S. approval must be obtained for project plans and programs as well as specifications of commodities before tenders are invited. [passage omitted]

The main objective of U.S. aid is almost confined to financing imports of commodities, except for certain Egyptian national projects which are supposed to improve operational efficiency and satisfy production requirements. [passage omitted]

In view of these harsh facts, the question now is: Will we be able—despite all these repressive terms, high usurious interest rates, old equipment and machines, as well as the drain of a substantial part of the aid by U.S. consultancies and the high prices of U.S. imports—to benefit in an ideal way from U.S. loans, at least to cover part of the heavy national losses inflicted on Egypt as a result of accepting such loans and investment grants?

Objectively, the U.S. loans pertaining to commodities have opened up broad horizons for inactive production capabilities despite the consequent punitively high prices and the fact that they have turned certain service and cooperative sectors into capitalist investment sectors whose objective is to make profits. However, these loans fall within the framework of the destructive objectives of U.S. aid to Egypt.

For instance, a $4 million loan was allocated to the Egyptian cultural affairs office in 1979 for the supply and installation of a printing machine. It was delivered in 1982 but was not installed until the end of 1986. [passage omitted]

The import and export of wheat and flour are of special importance because these are strategic commodities to all peoples. The exporter exerts economic pressure on the importer, who is forced to submit.

The Egyptian Government did submit to U.S. terror in this regard. Agreements were concluded between the governments in accordance with the terms of the U.S. Law 480, which stipulates several oppressive conditions listed above. [passage omitted]

By examining the secrets and mysteries of the U.S. loans and aid conspiracy we have discovered that a substantial part of these loans was allocated to projects and purposes that would be unable to repay either the installments or the interest on them. For instance, only 36 percent of investment loans were allocated to the industrial sector, whose output can help increase foreign currency revenue as well as increasing exports or replacing imports. [passage omitted]

These are some of the secrets and mysteries of the trap of U.S. loans and aid to Egypt, which we have obtained from a number of official documents. They reinforce all the articles and scientific studies that have always been subject to debate and argument in the search for irrefutable evidence in support of their conclusions. This prompts us to raise a number of questions no less serious than those already mentioned—pressing questions representing a national requirement that cannot be delayed: How can we rid ourselves of that trap?

What are the alternative solutions to this aid?

How can the implications of this experiment be overcome?

How can we proceed toward objectives that are free of foreign influence or subordination?

Let us engage in a debate and welcome the participation of specialists, the opinion makers, and thinkers.

Detained Airliner Returns to Cairo From Nigeria

NC0911061288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0040 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Nov (MENA)—The Egyptair airliner detained at Kano Airport in Nigeria since the day before yesterday, returned to Cairo airport at an early hour this morning. The airliner, with 167 persons aboard, was detained after four Nigerian transit passengers were arrested for hiding narcotics on their bodies. The Boeing 767 was released following intensive consultations between the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and Nigerian authorities.

Following the airliner's arrival at the airport, its pilot, Captain Ahmad Salim, said that all the passengers were well, that none of them had been harmed, and that they had stayed at hotels near Kano Airport while the airliner had been detained. He added that henceforth no Nigerian passenger will be allowed to board Egyptair planes.

Court Upholds Decision To Deport Palestinians

NC0811182488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1738 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—The State Council administrative court today upheld the interior minister's decision to deport eight Palestinians residing in Cairo.

State security investigators had earlier received information that the eight Palestinians were planning to carry out fedayeen operations inside Israel after crossing the eastern Sinai border and to blow up the Israeli consulate in Alexandria.

The interior minister issued a decision to arrest them and they were subsequently deported.

The court stated that the interior minister is authorized to take all measures against undesirable foreigners to guarantee the country's security, peace, and stability.

Commentary Views Middle East Peace Prospects

NC0811161488 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: "Will the New Year Mark the Beginning of a Serious Effort Toward a Just Peace in the Middle East?"]

[Text] The Palestinian uprising today enters its 12th month amid signs that Israel is unable to supress it, despite its use of all forms of repression and terrorism against Palestinian citizens. These methods have reached the extent of killing, starving, and driving people from their homes, demolishing houses, breaking bones, using poisonous gases, and even, isolating the West Bank and Gaza from the rest of the world. This resistance demonstrates the Palestinian people's rejection of the Israeli occupation and their plea for the international community to act promptly to assist them in attaining their national independence and obtaining their legitimate rights, just like other nations.

Meanwhile, the PNC will meet in a few days to determine the future course of Palestinian political action.

These two matters constitute an important factor that cannot be overlooked in the context of any possible international efforts to reactivate the peace process, particularly as the Palestinians are a basic party to the Arab-Israeli conflict, on whose behalf no other party can negotiate in the quest to attain their national aspirations.

Perhaps what drives us to emphasize this fact are the numerous comments and analyses made recently by many political analysts following the Israeli elections. These comments and analyses focused principally on who will form the new Israeli government. These political observers have forgotten that the basic issue is one of peace and the cause of a people wishing to obtain its legitimate rights. They have forgotten that this issue is not linked to this or that government.

To put it concisely, the peace process in the Middle East is a joint international responsibility. It involves numerous parties, each of whom must assume direct responsibility in this respect. These are the Palestinians, the Israelis, the international community, and the major powers, which bear direct responsibility for maintaining international security and are linked to the two principal parties in the conflict by mutual relations and interests.

Naturally, in view of Israel's insistence on rejecting a just peace and its refusal to recognize the Palestinian people's rights, and the continuation of the Palestinian uprising together with the tragedies resulting from it, the international community and the major powers have had to assume their responsibility. This is particularly true in view of the fact that the Palestinians demonstrated flexibility, moderation, and practicality when they accepted the idea of an international peace conference. This has persuaded the entire world to accept the same principle. In addition to this, the recent Palestinian-Jordanian meeting was designed to prevent all attempts to derail the peace process.

Furthermore, the Palestinians have succeeded in enlisting the support of Western Europe. The major powers, particularly France and the USSR have begun preparing for an international conference. For the first time, the United States has begun referring to Palestinian rights. The UN General Assembly has also strongly condemned Israeli actions against the Palestinians in the occupied territories. The international scene now appears ready for earnest moves toward the achievement of a just Middle East peace.

One important aspect remains: the stance of the United States, in which parliamentary elections [as heard] are being held today. The United States represents an important party to the peace process, in view of its relations with both the Arabs and Israel. From the beginning of this year it has embarked on initiatives and positive moves to reactiviate the peace process. Some people have regarded these moves as a positive sign that the United States will change its anti-PLO stand.

Hence, we hope that the new U.S. Administration will reconsider its Middle East policies in light of the current balanced U.S. position and the clear European support for Palestinian rights and the idea of holding an international peace conference, in addition to the detente process embarked upon by Moscow and Washington since the beginning of this year, which is designed to resolve chronic regional crises. Furthermore, Washington can directly influence Israel, in view of the special relationship between them.

Above all there is the question of the numerous U.S. interests in the Arab region. Will the hope be realized and the new year mark a new effort toward a just peace in the Middle East?

Shamir's Plan for Palestinians Derided

NC0911090188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Nov (MENA)—The AL-AHRAM and AL-AKHBAR newspapers strongly denounce the new Israeli plan in which Likud leader Yitzhaq Shamir calls for the use of both legal and illegal means to quell the Palestinian uprising and displace hundreds of thousands of Palestinians after destroying their camps.

In their editorials today, both papers agree that if Shamir wants to play with fire to satisfy the radical rightist parties, his plan is only intended for local consumption to enhance his image in the wake of the elections. If this plan is implemented, the papers say, it will be the beginning of a sweeping revolution that Israel would not be able to cope with.

AL-AKHBAR notes that at a time when there is talk about the need to prepare for an international conference for peace in the Middle East, Israeli leaders led by Shamir plunge in with their new plans that have nothing to do with peace or the efforts being made to achieve it. Israeli leaders, AL-AKHBAR maintains, will be making a mistake if they think that the strange methods their government is pursuing in tightening their grip on the occupied Palestinian territory, isolating it from the world, turning it into a giant prison, assassinating the PLO leaders, and resorting to terrorist acts, will succeed in stopping the wheel of time or silencing the voice that has resounded for 1 year demanding that the Israeli occupation end.

Concluding its editorial, AL-AKHBAR points out that the mask of democracy and civilization that has long concealed Israel's image has fallen and revealed an ugly picture of a government that prefers the methods of the mafia gangs to those of civilized governments.

AL-AHRAM describes Shamir's plan to annihilate and displace the Palestinians as an imaginary and unachievable one, because it will arouse formidable upheavals which Israel would not be able to face and which would certainly lead to an overwhelming revolution.

AL-AHRAM warns the Israelis against pursuing the illusions of Shamir's plans because it might turn into a nightmare. It says that the oppressors and believers in the arrogant power forget that the measures that humiliate man will eventually cause him to explode and become a ball of fire.

AL-AHRAM points out that in the past Israel was ruled by leaders who were so foolish as to deny the existence of the Palestinian people. These leaders claimed that they had sacred rights in a land they occupied by oppressive force. The facts, however, showed that these claims were null, void, and ludicrous. Israel was forced to recognize the existence of the Palestinians as represented at least in the uprising, and to accept withdrawal from some parts of the usurped territory.

Concluding its editorial, AL-AHRAM says that since the results of the Israeli elections and domestic bargainings may have inflamed the dream of destroying the Palestinians and seizing what remained of their territory, we hope that reason, the sense of governmental responsibility, and the goal of securing the future will prevail when the effects of the uproar of the election campaign disappear.

Libya

Envoy to Italy Refutes Plane Downing Allegations

LD0811173288 Rome International Service in Italian 1555 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] They are inventions, absurdities which do not even deserve a denial. This is Libyan Ambassador to Rome Shalqam Abd al-Rahman's reaction to the hypotheses formulated by some newspapers which says that the missile which shot down the Itavia DC-9 could have been launched by a Libyan MiG. Ambassador Shalqam made it clear that he did not want to start or fuel controversies.

He said he hoped that truth would be ascertained as soon as possible so that nobody would have a pretext to drag in Libya in an unsuitable fashion. According to the hypotheses forwarded by some newspapers, the missile which hit the DC-9 might have been launched by a Libyan MiG against another Libyan MiG piloted by a deserter who then crashed into the Sila Mountains. The remains of a Libyan aircraft were discovered in the Sila Mountains 18 July 1980, i.e. 21 days after the disaster.

Burkinabe Head of State Joins Meeting of Leaders

LD0811153488 Tripoli JANA in English 1430 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] November 8, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY [no placename as received]—Capt. Blaise Compaore has joined in the meeting of the leader of the revolution with President of Uganda Mr. Y. Museveni and Flight Capt. J. Rawlings, chairman of the Provisional National Defence Council in Ghana.

Earlier last night, Capt. B. Compaore arrived in Sidra Gulf municipality.

He was officially received at Sidra Gulf airport by the secretary of the General People's Congress.

Also participating in this reception were members of the secretariat of the General People's Congress, the secretariat and members of the General People's Committee, the secretariat of the People's Congress of Sidra Gulf municipality, the secretariat of the People's Congress and committees in the municipality, a number of the officers of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, a large number of the masses of the basic people's congresses in the municipality.

Following the playing of the two national anthems of Great Jamahiriyah and Ghana [as received], Capt. Campaore accompanied by the secretary of the General People's Congress inspected the guards of honour.

Capt. Campaore is accompanied on this visit by the foreign minister of his country.

Ghana's Rawlings Departs 8 Nov

LD0811201888 Tripoli JANA in English 1805 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Gulf of Defiance, Al-Harth [November] 8, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Flt Lt. Jerry Rawlings the chairman of the Provisional National Defence Council in Ghana departed from the airport of the Gulf of Defiance municipality at noon today at the end of a visit he made to Great Jamahiriyah.

An official farewell ceremony was held at the airport for Flt. Lt. Jerry Rawlings which was headed by the secretary of the General People's Congress.

Took part in the ceremony were: The members of the General People's Congress, the secretary and members of the General People's Committee, the secretary of the People's Congress of Sidra Gulf municipality, the secretary and members of the municipality's People's Committee, a number of officers from the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, the ambassador and staff members of Ghana's Embassy to Great Jamahiriyah.

Flt. Lt. Rawlings reviewed the guards of honour while 21 gun shot salute were fired, in honour of Great Jamahiriyah's guest.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Malian Foreign Minister

LD0811131688 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received the foreign minister of the Republic of Mali, Modibo Keita, who delivered to him a message from the president of Mali, Moussa Traore.

Jallud Addresses Tunisia Celebrations

LD0811202588 Tripoli JANA in English 1710 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth [November] 8, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam A. Jallud attended yesterday the massive people's celebration conducted by the masses of the Basic and Pan-Arab People's Congresses in Tripoli municipality.

It was held in the People's Hall to commemorate the 7th. Nov. which has brought back to Tunisia its unionist Arab identity and role.

Also present at this celebration were the sec. of the General People's Committees Affairs at the General People's Congress, the sec. of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture, the secretary of the People's Congress from Tripoli municipality, secretaries of the People's Committee in Tripoli municipality, the secretaries of the Peoples Congresses for the municipality branches, the general representative members of the representative of sisterly Tunisia accredited to Great Al-Jamahiriyah, members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic missions accredited to Great Al-Jamahiriyah, the masses of the Basic People's Congresses and a large number of the Tunisian nationals living in Great Al-Jamahiriyah.

Staff Major Jallud has given a speech at the massive people's celebrations greeting President Ben Ali and his courageous companions who have scored a victory for the pan-Arab will.

He adds that we have to regard 7th. Nov. in the context of the struggle of the Tunisian Arab people in Tunisia that has resisted the attempt to rob it of its identity and nation. It has resisted Frenchification, alienation and abolishment of its role. The 7th. Nov., he adds is the fruit of the struggle of this people and its strugglers.

He continues that the Frenchification, the regionalists and those infatuated with the colonialist West have lied.

This kind of people has worked for 30 years but they have been rowing against the current. The attempts aiming at depriving our people in Tunisia of its pan-Arab identity and at preventing it from assuming its pan-Arab role have brought about opposite results: The revolution of the Tunisian people broke out when the proposal for unity between Libya and Tunisia was signed in Djerba.

He adds that despite the regionalist and isolationist fetters our Tunisian Arab people were placed in to prevent it from communicating with its brothers in Libya, we have become certain that there is a pan-Arab consciousness and faith in unity.

Staff Major Jallud says that the former regime in Tunisia was a nightmare to the Arab people in Tunisia. This former regime used to distort the pan-Arab identity and the will of the people. It used to practice deception, desecration and demogogy.

But the Arab people in Tunisia resisted all of those practices through the uprisings of its students, workers, intellectuals, and pan-Arab and national forces.

He adds that the 7th. Nov. deserves to be a pan-Arab day apart from being a national day. It is "holy" with all the meanings of the term.

The pan-Arab terms, the pan-Arab speech, the pan-Arab dicta, the people's and democratic vocabulary were all banned before the 7th. Nov. What was prevailing then were Tunisianization and Frenchification.

Staff Major Jallud has called on all living and pan-Arab forces to double the efforts and renew the 7th. Nov. Everywhere adding that the Arab masses in Tunisia should be aware of their role and block the way once and for all against the hostile and regionalistic forces.

He says that President Ben Ali while giving his speech in Arabic while on a visit to France, gave by this a political significance thereby extending a message that Tunisia today is not Tunisia of yesterday. He stresses that we don't recognize any colonialist tutelage on any Arab country.

He points out that the imperialist countries try to perpetually interfere in the internal affairs of Arab countries.

He says that we have noticed the flagrant interference by France in the internal affairs of Algeria and the hostile campaign waged by the French media organs against the Arab people in Algeria that has baptized its independence with the blood of one and half million martyrs.

He points out that then the Libyan Arab people commemorates rejoicefully the 7th. Nov, it feels that Tunisia has been changed now thanks to its wise leadership that has made the 7th. Nov. erupt thereby making the people of Great Al-Jamahiriya and Tunisia one people.

He adds that we highly evaluate the historic transformation in Arab Tunisia. We don't see the 7th. Nov. as separated from the daring and continuing resistance led by the Arab people in Tunisia to get rid of the heavy nightmare.

He points out that the important stage in the struggle of the Arab people in Tunisia came on 7th. Nov. led by President Ben Ali and his companions who proved a unique courage appreciated by the Arab people in Tunisia closing ranks with them to score a victory for its will.

Staff Major Jallud has stressed that the Libyan Arab people actively stands today with its brotherly Arab people in Tunisia after its political will has been liberated thanks to the 7th. Nov.

He points out that thanks to the 7th. Nov. the unionist steps underway have been reaffirmed now more than before because the question of unity has become one of the masses. All the meetings held with our brothers in Tunis have given very reassuring results.

He says that we are happy for the interaction among the masses of the Arab people in Great Al-Jamahiriyah and Tunis and their exchange of visits without any prior conditions. Such is an important transformation. It could not have happened without the victory of the will of the Arab people in Tunisia and the 7th. Nov.

He adds that we have the right to celebrate on this day because it is a day of pride and integrity when Tunisia redeemed its status thereby bringing back its Arab face and identity, apart from being a pan-Arab day for us and the Arab nation.

On concluding his speech, Staff Major Jallud has, on this occasion, extended again the greetings and congratulations of the Libyan Arab people to the Arab people in Tunisia and President Ben Ali pointing out that the telegram of congratulations sent by the leader of the revolution to President Ben Ali has been a genuine expression of the day of change and the 7th. Nov.

The general representative of Tunisia representation in Great Al-Jamahiriyah has given a speech reaffirming the strong reaffirming the strong unionist relations between the one Arab people in Great Al-Jamahiriyah and sisterly Tunisia.

Addressing the audience, he says that their celebration on 7th. Nov. is a strengthening of the ties of brotherhood. This makes it necessary to work seriously to strengthen and reinforce this day to implement the objectives of our Arab nation, apart from achieving its unity.

He adds that the 7th. Nov. has come to reinforce the unionist role and establish an Arab Maghreb without borders as a step towards achieving the comprehensive Arab unity we all aspire for [words indistinct] points out [word indistinct] the 7th. Nov. has established distinctive relations with our brothers especially sisterly Great Al-Jamahiriyah.

Meanwhile, the speech of the standing secretariat of the Arab masses the first anniversary of the change of 7th. Nov. in Tunisia.

It stresses that this change will be a day celebrated by the Arab nation. It saved Tunisia from a backward era bringing it to a new era—the era of Arab and Islamic identity.

This day, the Secretariat adds, has brought back to Tunisia its Arab face and put an end to [word indistinct] and Frenchification. It has assumed a comprehensive liberation role supportive to the Palestine Revolution with the help of the 7th. Nov. We will proceed to achieve the overall Arab unity.

Meanwhile, the speech of the women's societies in Tripoli municipality was given pointing out that we meet today to celebrate a new victory adding to glorious victories.

It is the beginning of the escalating unionist action. The 8th. Nov. reaffirms its [words indistinct] of destiny after a time Tunisia was under a puppet reactionary regime.

The 7th. November is [word indistinct] making day in the life of the Arab nation. The courageous stances assumed by the heroes of the 7th. Nov. is an illuminating landmark for forming Arab reality. The Arab masses don't come to a [word indistinct] they have brought into existence Nasser and the revolutionary leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. This nation has reinforced [word indistinct] heroes to fulfill the [word indistinct] of our masses [word indistinct] the speech of the People's Congress in Tripoli municipality was given [word indistinct] this day that has come into being thanks to the 7th. Nov. led by President Ben Ali and his companions.

The speech adds that the 7th. Nov. has given to the geography of this region a unionist political dimension.

It has changed in it the course of the movement of history thereby delivering our Arab people in Tunisia from isolation and regionalism imposed upon it. It has opened up broad horizons to achieve the objectives of the Arab nation in its endeavours and struggle [word indistinct] unity and liberation.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Talks With Syria's Vice President

LD0811180288 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali conferred at the Palace of the Republic in Carthage midday today with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche; Habib Amar, minister of state and adviser to the president of the Republic; and Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh.

Mr 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam expressed satisfaction at meeting President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and added he had conveyed a message to him from his brother President Hafiz al-Asad on the Arab situation, the regional situation, and ways to bolster bilateral relations. He pointed out the meeting had been an opportunity to discuss these topics and noted there had been an agreement of viewpoints on the various issues discussed.

Secretary of State for Religion Appointed

LD0811182888 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Excerpt] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has appointed Mr Kassem Boucenena as secretary of state at the Prime Minister's Office in charge of religious affairs. This was announced by the prime minister following his meeting with the head of state. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati Visits

Arrives With Message

LD0811052688 Tehran IRNA in English 0514 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 8, IRNA—Iran's First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati arrived here Monday night in the third leg of his tour of Persian Gulf Arab states which has already taken him to Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Besharati was welcomed by his Kuwaiti counterpart Sulayman Majid al-Shahin as well as Iran's embassy officials. The Iranian Foreign Ministry envoy is to meet the Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah today to hand him a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i.

Besharati has already conveyed similar messages from President Khamene'i to the heads of state in Oman and the UAE.

Meets With Amir

LD0811105788 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] At 1000 this morning the amir received Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, who conveyed to his highness, may God protect him, a message from His Excellency President 'Ali Khamene'i.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, and the charge d'affaires of the Iranian Embassay in Kuwait.

Talks to Foreign Minister

LD0811152388 Kuwait KUNA in English 1415 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 8 (KUNA)—Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad 'Ali Besharati conferred here Tuesday with Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad on the situation in the Gulf region and ties between Iran and Kuwait.

Shaykh Sabah, talking to reporters after the meeting, welcomed Besharati's visit and expressed hope that Iran's relations with Kuwait and other Arab Gulf countries would continue to improve for the best interests of the two sides and the whole region. He described his meeting with Besharati as "good and positive," adding that the talks "mirrored good will and a sincere desire in strengthening links between Iran and the Arab Gulf states."

Shaykh Sabah added that Besharati who had been granted an audience with his highness the amir earlier in the day conveyed to the amir a message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i.

The Sabah-Besharati meeting was attended by Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Sulayman Majid al-Shahin and other senior Foreign Ministry officials in addition to the charge d'affaires of the Iranian Embassy in Kuwait.

Besharati and Shahin held lengthy talks afterward.

Holds News Conference

LD0811155388 Kuwait KUNA in Enlgish 1339 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 8 (KUNA)—A senior Iranian official Tuesday said his country is offering its Arab Gulf neighbors friendship and cooperation and he believed that neither Iran nor Iraq was prepared to fight again.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad 'Ali Besharati added in a press conference that Iran, which has engaged Saudi Arabia in a war of words for more than a year, was willing to normalize relations with the Saudi Kingdom.

But Besharati who is touring the Arab Gulf countries since early this week said his mission does not include a visit to Saudi Arabia for lack of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Besharati held the press conference at the Iranian ambassador's residence after a morning audience with H.H. the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad and respective talks with Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Sabah and his counterpart Sulayman Majid al-Shahin.

The Iranian official who arrived here last night following visits to Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, had relayed to the amir a message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i.

Responding to a query, the Iranian official said if Iraq troops withdrew to international borders, other points of contention in the Iran-Iraq peace negotiations would be agreed on including clearing the Shatt al-'Arab waterway from sunken ships and war hazards.

He emphasized the need for eliminating all stumbling blocks that have thus far bogged down the peace negotiations in Geneva and insisted that the talks "will continue through to the last point till peace and conciliation are achieved."

Five days after an Iran-Iraq ceasefire went into effect last August 20, the two sides entered into peace negotiations on basis of the ten-point Security Council Resolution 598. However, until last night the talks have failed to make headway as the Iranian and Iraqi delegations were locked in discussing the first points which include troop withdrawal and the exchange of prisoners of war.

The issues preventing any progress in the implementation of the resolution, which itself provides the framework for a comprehensive peace treaty, are the questions of freedom of navigation in the Gulf and the clearing of the Shatt al-Arab waterway. Asked if news of Iranian troop build-up on the front with Iraq was compatible with Iran's proclaimed desire for peace, Besharati pointed out the difference between peace and ceasefire, indicating that genuine peace was yet to be reached.

"In a situation like this Iran has to maintain a state of self-defense. If lasting and overall peace was reached we would not need these troop concentrations or to reinforce in such a way," he said.

Besharati stressed that a 1975 border demarcation agreement signed by Iran and Iraq was still valid and that his country was not contemplating changing the accord. The Algiers accord split sovereignty over Shatt al-Arab evenly between Iran and Iraq but Iraq, seeking full command on its only outlet to the sea, officially quashed the accord in September 1980 few days before the Gulf war broke out. Besharati, talking of the current Iran-Iraq negotiations, said peace and not border demarcation is now on the negotiating table. He insisted that the Algiers accord does not constitute a hurdle in front of peace. Iraq thinks differently.

Though he admitted that the Iran-Iraq peace talks could drag on for years, Besharati said the two sides can and must reach positive results in the earliest time possible. "We can do it and we continue to march in this direction." he added. The Iranian deputy foreign minister said the Iran-Iraq ceasefire had heralded a new chapter in relations between Iran and its Arab Gulf neighbors.

He said Iran wants comprehensive peace to prevail in the area and that all Gulf states support (?this move).

Talking of his current tour, he said the Arab Gulf countries had indicated they were willing to contribute to the reconstruction of war damage caused to Iran and Iraq, which he said was a "natural attitude from "friends and brethren." [quotation marks as received]

But he emphasized that his country would not accept financial assistance "because we do not need it."

On his talks with Kuwaiti leaders, Besharati said the two sides held identical views on establishing peace in the region, adding that Kuwaiti officials reaffirmed the need for the peace negotiations to continue for a tangible outcome.

He said his meetings with his highness the amir of Kuwait and Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad centered on links between the two countries, the situation in the region and the progress of the Geneva peace negotiations.

The two sides shared several viewpoints, according to Besharati, who added that his country sees no obstacle in the face of strengthening ties with Kuwait. He noted that of all the Arab Gulf states Kuwait had the oldest relations with Iran.

Answering a question, Besharati denied reports of contacts between Iran and Egypt—not even through a third party. He said Iran released a group of Egyptian prisoners of war for what he called "moral reasons," adding that another group would also be released. He did not say when.

Conveys Khamene'i Message

LD0811155888 Tehran IRNA in English 1516 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Kuwait, Nov. 8, IRNA—Iranian Acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati Tuesday conveyed President 'Ali Khamenei's message to Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

The Kuwaiti head of state stressed the Persian Gulf region needs a just and durable peace and tranquility more than before.

Talks were also held at the meeting on the latest developments in Iran-Iraq Geneva talks, the need for achieving a lasting peace in the Persian Gulf region, situation of Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), international oil markets and expansion of Tehran-Kuwait ties.

Meanwhile, Besharati conferred with Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Sabah on the latest developments in the Persian Gulf as well as Iran-Kuwait relations.

The Iranian official arrived here Monday from the United Arab Emirates.

Cited on 'Possible' Saudi Ties

LD0811190288 Tehran IRNA in English 1834 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Kuwait, Nov. 8, (IRNA)—The Islamic Republic of Iran is working on a plan which would guarantee security of the regional states, said a senior Iranian official here Tuesday [8 November]

First Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati said at a news conference here that the plan envisaged a meeting at experts level among the regional states which he said could continue at the level of foreign ministers or even heads of state to endorse its general outlines.

Besharati, currently touring Persian Gulf Arab states, also urged the regional countries to work for the cause of peace and stability in the area.

The deputy foreign minister arrived here Monday night to submit a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i for the Kuwaiti head of state Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. He has already visited Oman and the UAE where he handed similar messages from Khamene'i to his counterparts in Muscat and Abu Dhabi.

Besharati also declared Iran's readiness to participate in any joint mine-sweeping operations with the Persian Gulf states in regional waters.

On the Iran-Iraq peace talks in Geneva, he said the Islamic Republic was in favor of the success of the negotiations for the cause of peace and tranquility in the region. "Iran wants full implementation of (Security Council) Resolution 598." He said the peace talks could proceed if Baghdad withdrew its illogical preconditions which he said have impeded the negotiations.

Besharati said there was no need to sign a new agreement on border disputes with Iraq because he stressed the 1975 agreement between the two countries has already determined joint boundaries. The Geneva peace talks, he emphasised, aims at achieving a comprehensive peace "not discussing border issues," he stressed.

The deputy foreign minister said the Islamic Republic has opened a new chapter in its relations with the regional countries following its acceptance of U.N. Resolution 598 (in July).

He described relations with Kuwait as "very good" and said his talks with officials of the countries he had visited were "very positive and constructive." He also said improvement of relations with Saudi Arabia was possible. Iran has presently no diplomatic ties with Saudi Arabia.

According to Besharati there are numerous common points between Iran and Kuwait on the Geneva Peace talks between Iran and Iraq, expansion of mutual ties, and other issues.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD0811175288 Kuwait KUNA in English 1559 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 8 (KUNA)—Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati left Kuwait Tuesday at the end of a 24-hour visit during which he relayed a message to his highness the Amir from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i.

Besharati also met here with acting prime minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin.

Saudi Arabia

Reportage on Visit of Kuwaiti Crown Prince

Meets With King Fahd

LD0811181688 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1455 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Madina 8 November 88 (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, may God protect him, held a meeting at his office at the Royal Court at Al-Taybah Palace in Medina today with His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti crown prince and prime minister.

The meeting was attended on the Saudi side by His Royal Highness Prince Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard; His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general; His Royal Highness Prince Mit'ib ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, minister of public works and housing; His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of interior; Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, minister of education and acting minister of higher education; His Excellency 'Ali Hasan al-Sha'ir, minister of information; and Mr Abdallah 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sederi, the custodian of the two holy mosques' ambassador to the State of Kuwait.

The meeting was attended, on the Kuwaiti side, by Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim, minister of interior; Mr Rashid 'Abd al-Aziz al-Rashid, minister of state for cabinet affairs; Mr. Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, minister of state for foreign affairs; Eng 'Abd al-Rahman Ibrahim al-Huti, minister of public works; Major General 'Abd al-Latif Faysal al-Thuwwayni, adviser at the office of the amir of Kuwait; Mr ('Abd al-Latif Abd al-Rahman al-Bahr), director general of his highness heir apparent's office; and Mr 'Abd al-Rahman Ahmad al-Bakr, Kuwait's ambassador to the Kingdom.

Talks With Crown Prince

LD0811224288 Kuwait KUNA in English 1905 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Riyadh, Nov 8 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashid al-Rashid Tuesday described the current visit by His Highness Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah to Saudi Arabia as aimed at "supporting cooperation between the two countries."

Speaking to SAUDI PRESS AGENCY "SPA", Al-Rashid added that Shaykh Sa'd is carrying a "cordial" message to custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz from His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad.

Shaykh Sa'd and the Saudi crown prince and deputy premier and head of the National Guards Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz discussed a number of issues "aimed at boosting bilateral relations" as well as matters of interest to both the Gulf Region and the Arab nation.

On the ongoing Geneva peace negotiations between Iraq and Iran, Al-Rashid expressed optimism of the "seriousness" of the talks, hoping permanent and comprehensive peace would prevail in the region.

Signs Rights Agreement

LD0811225188 Kuwait KUNA in English 1937 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Riyadh, Nov 8 (KUNA)—Kuwait and Saudi Arabia Tuesday signed an agreement governing the rights of citizens in the divided border area between the two countries, it was officially announced here. The 5,700 square kilometers area is located at the southern tip of Kuwait.

Kuwaiti Minister of Interior Shaykh Salim al-Sabah and his Saudi counterpart Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz signed the agreement in Medina, Saudi Arabia, on behalf of the two countries, SAUDI PRESS AGENCY reported.

SPA quoted Shaykh Salim following the meeting as saying directives of the Saudi Crown Prince and Deputy Premier Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and visiting Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah "gave great momentum for activation of the issue." Shaykh Salim highlighted cooperation with Prince Nayif who "removed many obstacles through his wisdom and experience in such matters."

The Kuwaiti official hoped that the agreement would serve best interests of the two countries.

For his part Saudi Prince Nayif highly valued instructions given by Shaykh Sa'd and Prince Abdallah to himself and to his Kuwaiti counterpart to settle this issue, SPA added.

He noted such directives were given to secure the same standard of living of the Saudi citizens with their Kuwaiti brothers in the area.

"We all know that the Kuwaiti people led by His Highness the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad are keen on calmness and rest of the Saudi people in Kuwait."

'Press Statement' Issued

LD0911083788 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0420 GMT 9 Nov 88

["Press Statement on the Visit of the Kuwaiti Heir Apparent to Saudi Arabia"—SPA headline]

[Text] Riyadh, 9 Nov (SPA)—In an attempt to consolidate the firm fraternal ties between the State of Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and at the invitation of his brother—His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, crown prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—the Kuwaiti heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers, His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, visited the Kingdom at the head of an official delegation from Saturday 26 Rabi' al-Awwal to Wednesday 30 Rabi' al-Awwal, corresponding to 5-9 November 1988.

During this visit his highness met with King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, to whom he conveyed the kindest greetings and best wishes of His Highness the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, and exchanged views and cordial talk on bilateral relations and Arab and international issues.

Official talks were held during the visit in an atmosphere of understanding and friendship. They were led on the Kuwaiti side by his highness the heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, and on the Saudi side by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard. These talks dealt with bilateral relations and various issues of mutual interest.

The two sides expressed total satisfaction with the continuous progress of their constructive fraternal cooperation in various spheres, and reaffirmed their resolve to forge ahead in consolidating the foundations of this cooperation and widening its prospects. Agreement was reached to set up a committee of foreign, interior, and oil ministers of the two countries to follow up issues relating to the various aspects of cooperation. This committee will begin its work in the immediate future in order to realise the aspirations of the leaders of the two fraternal countries.

The two sides also expressed desire to realize more support for the constructive march of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] and its establishments and praised the council's effective role. In this connection they affirmed that they are looking forward to the summit meeting of their majesties and highnesses the leaders of the member-states of the GCC in fraternal Bahrain and their hope that this big meeting will be successful and will make progress.

With regard to the situation in the region, the two sides expressed satisfaction over the positive developments in the region, which was embodied in the implementation of executive steps to implement the UN Security Council Resolution No 598. The two sides stressed the need to implement the above-mentioned resolution according to the principles stipulated in it. They also renewed their support for the efforts of the UN Security Council which aim at reaching a comprehensive and lasting peace that may guarantee security and stability in the region, and freedom of maritime transportation in international passage ways and waters in the Gulf.

Regarding the current Arab situation, the two sides praised the valiant and continuous uprising of the Palestinian people and condemned all kinds of oppression and torture targeted against these people by the Israeli aggression. The two sides reiterated their countries' political and material support for this uprising until it achieves its aims.

As for the serious situation that fraternal Lebanon is going through, the two sides stressed the need for joint efforts within the Arab framework in order to save Lebanon and reintroduce constitutional institutions to enable the realization of its unity, sovereignty, and independence.

When reviewing the situation in world oil markets, the sides emphasized their countries' readiness and commitment to respect the designated quotas within the framework of OPEC, on condition that the member-states fully commit themselves to their designated quotas.

Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, his highness the heir apparent and prime minister, expressed sincere gratitude for the overwhelming hospitality accorded him and his delegation. He extended an invitation to his brother, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, crown prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, to visit Kuwait. His royal highness accepted the invitation with thanks and promised to respond as soon as possible, God willing.

Memo Affirms Exchange of Sick, Wounded POW's

JN0811145088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1225 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, 8 Nov (INA)—Iraq has announced its readiness to immediately begin the process of exchanging all sick and wounded POW's as currently outlined by the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] if Iran agrees to reciprocate the measure.

This came in an official memorandum handed to ICRC Chairman Cornelio Sommaruga by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, during a meeting he held with the ICRC chairman at the ICRC Geneva headquarters this morning. The memorandum referred to the 2 November meeting between Tariq 'Aziz and the members of the Iraqi delegation to the direct negotiations and the ICRC chairman.

The memorandum said that the Iraqi Government, out of humanitarian motives and in harmony with the Geneva convention of 1949, is ready to immediately embark on the process of repatriating all currently registered sick and wounded POW's numbering 411 Iranian POW's in Iraq and 1,115 Iraqi POW's in Iran, if the Iranian Government approves this proposal. The memorandum indicated that Iraq is ready to begin immediately repatriating registered POW's according to ratios to be agreed upon.

The Iraqi memorandum stressed the need to begin the process of registering the unregistered POW's immediately according to the measures proposed by the ICRC, to exchange the lists containing the names of the POW's, to repatriate them as part of a comprehensive exchange operation, and to give precedence to the issue of registering and exchanging the sick and wounded POW's.

The memorandum affirmed that the Iraqi Government's stand—regarding its agreement to begin immediately the process of repatriating all the registered sick and wounded POW's before all POW's are registered comprehensively and before they are all repatriated—is a humanitarian initiative in harmony with the provisions of the Geneva convention of 1949 on POW's to end their sufferings and their families' concern after the actual hostilities have ended.

The memorandum pointed out that Iraq's affirmation on the issue regarding the beginning of the exchange of this very limited number of POW's must not be used by the Iranian side to obstruct the process of the comprehensive exchange of POW's according to the Geneva convention, as there are more then 100,000 POW'S from both sides who have continued to suffer in captivity despite the cessation of effective hostilities since 20 August 1988.

'Aziz on 'Speedy' Exchange

JN0811150688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, 8 Nov (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister has stressed Iraq's position and full readiness to work with the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] to discuss a speedy and full exchange of POW's.

In statements to journalists here today after his meeting with [ICRC Chairman] Sommaruga, 'Aziz said that Iraq is prepared to work fully with the committee at any level—whether ministerial or working team level. It is also prepared to work directly or indirectly with the Iranians, as they wish. The ICRC is free to find appropriate ways to discuss a speedy exchange of POW's, he said.

'Aziz's statements came after he had read a press statement on the contents of an official memorandum he submitted to the ICRC today, in which he declared once again Iraq's consent to an exchange of POW's.

He said he had informed the chairman of the ICRC that Iraq has no problem concerning registering and giving details about the POW's who have not yet been registered.

Mr 'Aziz said that 68,000 Iraqi and Iranian POW's are registered with the ICRC, which knows their whereabouts. He said that they can be immediately exchanged according to the Geneva agreement of 1949.

He added that Iraq is ready to present a list of the names of all POW's as soon as possible if the other side agrees to present a similar list.

Answering a question on how to transport the POW's if an agreement on their exchange is reached, 'Aziz said that Mr Sommaruga told him that he would do his best to accomplish this operation as soon as possible.

Answering a question by an Iranian journalist on whether Iran agreed to this position, the foreign minister said: I do not know. This is Iraq's position. It is left to the ICRC to obtain the agreement of the other side.

Fifth Session of Direct Negotiations Resume

JN0811172888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, 8 Nov (INA)—The direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran at the ministerial level resumed in Geneva this evening with the holding of a fifth session within this round of negotiations, which began on 31 October.

The Iraqi side is headed by Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, and the Iranian side by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The negotiations will deal with ways to implement Security Council Resolution No 598, clearing the Shatt al-'Arab waterway, free navigation in the Arabian Gulf, and exchanging POW's between the two countries.

Mrs Therese Gastaut, information officer at the United Nations' European headquarters, said the two delegations are currently holding a full official meeting at the meeting hall under the supervision of Jan Eliasson, the UN secretary general's representative.

Session Ends; 'Aziz on 598

JN0911074088 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] The fifth session of the Iraq-Iran negotiations ended in Geneva at 2305 Baghdad time last night, after 4 hours and 30 minutes—making this the second longest session between the two sides during the negotiations.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister—the first to leave the meeting hall—made a statement to journalists stressing Iraq's unequivocal refusal to divide the UN Security Council resolution into independent paragraphs, some of which are meant to be implemented, while others are left obscure. He said: Either we accept each paragraph of the resolution according to its sequence in order to set a time frame and define measures to implement it, or we accept the resolution as an indivisible whole. If we want to deal with the resolution as a package, then we should deal with it as an indivisible unit. It is illogical to take certain paragraphs of the resolution and leave the other paragraphs without explaining how to implement them.

Regarding the exchange of POW's, the foreign minister stressed the need to isolate this issue from the political talks, proceeding from humanitarian reasons that necessitate a speedy exchange of POW's. He said: Naturally, the political talks will take some time. However, if there is a humanitarian issue, such as the exchange of POW's, then such a humanitarian issue must be isolated from the negotiations and their lengthy procedures as soon as possible. The thing that encourages us to isolate the POW issue from the political talks is the existence of international provisions, treaties, and conventions related to POW's such as the Third Geneva Convention of 1949 and specific paragraphs of Article 118 of this convention.

Tariq 'Aziz added: Any delay in implementing this convention could mean the absence of the minimum level of good intentions by the other side. In fact, this could mean that this side has the desire to complicate the issue, and consequently the negotiations. This has been clearly displayed by Iran. In simple words, I can tell you that the Iranian side seeks to compromise people's lives and destinies with political issues still being discussed during the negotiations.

Answering a question on whether the Iraqi delegation has rejected the so-called UN secretary general's plan, as Velayati said the day before yesterday, Tariq 'Aziz said: We are still in the middle of discussions. There is no specific plan. The Iranian delegation usually makes its own comments. However, these comments conflict with what is actually taking place. The issue we have discussed with the UN secretary general, and now with his representative Jan Eliasson, is how to implement Resolution No 598. The discussions are still taking place, and there is no final plan that has been accepted or rejected.

Answering another question, Tariq 'Aziz denied that Iraq has any ambitions in Iranian territory. He said that facts have proved Iran's ambitions in Iraqi territory when it used the word liberation whenever it occupied any part of Iraqi territory. He said that Iraq has never used this stupid word because we respect Iran's territorial integrity as an independent state.

On the presence of Iraqi forces inside Iranian territory, the foreign minister said: It is true that our forces are still present in Iranian territory. However, this does not mean occupation because occupation has a legal and political meaning. What happened, as you know, is that Iran occupied large areas of Iraqi territory, and during the liberation operations, our forces found themselves inside Iranian territory. This is not occupation, and we do not have ambitions in Iranian territory.

UN Military Observer Group Commander Departs

JN0911085888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Nov (INA)—General Slavko Jovic, commander of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group [UNIIMOG], left Baghdad today following a week-long visit to Iraq. The UN official inspected the UN forces at the Iraqi side as part of mission entrusted to him by the UN Security Council to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598.

He was seen off by the representative of the coordination committee with the UN observers and the UN representative in Baghdad.

Ramadan Receives UK Trade Secretary

JN0711162388 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, today received Anthony Newton, British minister of the secretary of state for trade and chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster, and his accompanying delegation. They discussed trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Taha Yasin Ramadan asserted that Iraq will give priority in implementing future development projects to the companies which continued to work during war. He said the development achieved by Iraq under President Leader Saddam Husayn is the beginning of a comprehensive awakening to be witnessed in the current and future phases.

The British minister voiced the British establishments' readiness to increase cooperation with Iraqi establishments in the trade, economic, and services fields. The British ambassador in Baghdad attended the meeting.

Cooperation Minutes Signed
JN0711202888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Nov (INA)—Iraq and Britain signed here today the minutes of the meetings of the seventh session of the joint committee for trade and economic, scientific, and technical cooperation.

According to the minutes, the two parties will promote and diversify trade exchanges and intensify the exchange of visits by businessmen, such as industrialists and merchants, and between trade and industrial chambers. The two parties will also increase the British companies' contribution to the next Baghdad international fair.

The minutes provide for extension by the British Government of credit facilities worth 340 million pounds sterling to finance its exports to Iraq in terms of projects and capital goods, intermediary goods, and consumer goods as well as services, medicines, pharmaceuticals, and other raw materials.

The minutes also stipulate offering opportunities for cooperation in large and strategic projects whose implementation requires the contribution of more than one country. They also provide for agreement on increasing training opportunities and exchanging information and experience in various fields.

The minutes were signed on the Iraqi side by Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih and on the British side by Anthony Newton, minister of the secretary of state for trade and industry. It was decided to hold the next session of the Iraqi-British joint committee in London in the 2d half of next year. It is noteworthy that the British credit facilities extended to Iraq last year totaled 175 million pounds sterling.

Reportage on Vietnamese Economy Minister's Visit

Talks With Hammadi
JN0311105688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0943 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Nov (INA)—Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of state for foreign affairs, today received Doan Duy Thanh, Vietnamese minister of external economic relations and his delegation. During the meeting, attended by the Vietnamese ambassador in Baghdad, they reviewed the developed relations between the two friendly countries.

Sees Ba'th Party Official
JN0411163888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1535 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Nov (INA)—The director of the foreign relations bureau at the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command today met with Doan Duy Thanh, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV], and his delegation. They discussed how to promote relations between the two parties. Doan Duy Thanh, also minister of external economic relations, is currently visiting Iraq at the head of a delegation to attend the 25th session of the Baghdad International Fair, which opened last Tuesday.

VNA Reports Visit
BK0811032288 Hanoi VNA in English 1506 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 7—A government delegation led by Doan Duy Thanh, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and minister of external economic relations, has paid a week long visit to Iraq.

While there, the delegation visited the Baghdad International Fair. It was received on Nov. 7 by Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister, and Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi, chairman of the National Assembly. Host and guest expressed their wish to further promote the friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

First Deputy Prime Minister Ramadan praised Vietnam's goodwill in seeking a solution to the Kampuchea issue which, he said, is an active contribution to consolidating peace, stability and cooperation in Southeast Asia and all over the world.

He highly appreciated Vietnam's principled stand and support to the struggle of the Arab people against imperialism and Zionism.

Minister Doan Duy Thanh, for his part, acclaimed the Iraqi efforts and peace goodwill in solving the Iran-Iraq conflicts.

Paper Criticizes Iranian Ambassador to Turkey
JN0311085688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says today the Tehran regime affirms the continuation of the policy of terrorism and sabotage as well as indifference to international law and charters.

In a comment today, the paper adds that Manuchehr Motaki, the Iranian regime's ambassador to Turkey, is currently acting feverishly to lead the terrorist and subversive acts carried out by Tehran's extremist agents on Turkish teritory, particularly in Ankara and Istanbul. Based on reports and information from the Turkish capital, the paper explains that the terrorist network run by the Iranian regime's ambassador is responsible for assassinating 'Abd al-Ghani Badawi, a Saudi diplomat, as well as assassinating a Jordanian diplomat in August 1985 and kidnapping Eng Abu al-Hasan Mojtahed-Zadeh, an opposition leader.

Concluding, the paper urges all forces that love security, peace, and stability to take firm and deterrent measures against this regime and to expose its intentions and those of its evil allies everywhere.

Shamir Congratulates Bush; Notes 'True Friendship'
TA0911102988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] In a congratulatory message to U.S. President-elect George Bush, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says he hopes that Bush's term will be blessed with success in bringing about peace and in furthering the welfare of the United States, the free world, and humanity as a whole. Our political correspondent reports that in his congratulations, Mr Shamir adds that while serving as vice president, Bush demonstrated true friendship for Israel in his enthusiastic support of the friendship between the two countries.

Peres on U.S. Elections, Coalition Contacts
TA0911083488 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Ilana Dayan at the IDF Radio studio—live]

[Text] [Dayan] Good morning, sir. Mr Peres, you know George Bush. You met him more than once, even before he became vice president. In your estimation, will his election bring about any change in relations between Jerusalem and Washington?

[Peres] He will naturally put his personal stamp on bilateral relations. We should also wait and see who will make up his administration, of course. As is known, there are at least two administration members who greatly influence Israel-U.S. relations; I am referring to the secretary of state and secretary of defense. Of course Bush will be different from Reagan. I hope that someone like Shultz, who was a true and loyal friend, will be found.

[Dayan] The current talk is that from now on bilateral relations will move along more normal lines: less feelings of friendship and love and colder strategic considerations. Does this mean we will also have to be more attentive to U.S. initiatives, if and when they come?

[Peres] First, I have reservations about prophecies. I remember that when Shultz was appointed, there were objections because he came from the Bechtel Company and from the atmosphere with which it was associated. One should not rush to conclusions. The main point here is that support for Israel depends on both parties—the Republicans and the Democrats—as well as on the two institutions: the White House and the U.S. Senate. One should not forget this clear fact.

Israel-U.S. relations operate on three different planes: first, the strategic plane, which is important for both Israel and the United States. It is important to us in order to maintain the balance of power. Any weakening in Israel's power, God forbid, would immediately have a very serious impact on our deterrent power and on stability in the Middle East. The matter of the balance of power very largely depends on the United States' attitude.

Second, the peace process: The peace process is necessary today because the entire world is tired of wars and conflicts. The current view is that no cause is worth active superpower involvement in a war. Even the supply and use of arms have not earned either of the superpowers a real edge. As we can see, even the Soviets are reconsidering matters. At any rate, the second issue here is that of U.S. connections with the Arab countries, including Jordan, Egypt, and the Persian Gulf countries. The United States has traditionally been the bearer of the peace process banner. The degree of force and initiative which the new administration will invest in the peace process largely depends on the secretary of state's personality and the U.S. global outlook...

[Dayan, interrupting] This is a question indeed. After all, in recent years Washington has not been eager to promote a political initiative in our region. Generally, we have had difficulty in placing the Middle East problem on the U.S. agenda, except for the Shultz initiative. Do you see a chance of Bush coming out with such an initiative and pushing Israel onto the negotiations course?

[Peres] Look, I have reservations about the strong language you choose to use. I believe the Americans will surely adopt a policy of support for and interest in the peace process. I am convinced that the United States will not agree to there being no peace process. This is important for the United States in order to maintain its policy throughout the region and is also compatible with its outlook.

The third plane is the economic one: We certainly have extensive economic relations. First, we are a rather serious debtor. In addition, we have a free trade zone agreement. There are also very warm relations between Israel and the U.S. Jewish community. Now, in my opinion, Bush himself is an experienced person who knows the problem. He has also handled several emotional issues; for example, it was Bush who was responsible for the U.S. aid extended to us in bringing the Ethiopian Jews to Israel.

[Dayan] With your permission, Mr Peres, let us move to another subject. The United States has a President as of last night, while matters are much more complicated in Israel, as is well known...

[Peres, interrupting] I envy this Presidential system, where both the winner and loser are clear.

[Dayan] We, the journalists, could have found respite earlier if things were different here. Nonetheless, the impression given yesterday was that the orthodox parties will still support the Likud. Are you still interested in continuing the negotiations with them, particularly with SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], in order to form a Peres-led government?

[Peres] It is not a question of being interested in this, but of having to do so. I am looking for a government that will allocate a serious place to the peace process. In other words, my topmost consideration is the peace process, not only the formation of a government. I have found leading people in SHAS, Degel Hatora, and also in Agudat Yisra'el who are prepared to offer their hand to the peace process. It is our duty to find out whether this desire can be conducive to the establishment of a government that will take the initiative in this sphere.

[Dayan] In other words, is everything still open, in your opinion?

[Peres] I do not know. The information keeps changing, and I would not like to delude anybody or build up false hopes or sow despair. This is a clarification process with ups and downs and with very frequent changes. There is a lot of disinformation, too. Let us wait a while longer and see.

Abu Rahmah 'Optimistic' Over Bush Election

TA0911064888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] An initial reaction to the U.S. election results from the territories: optimism. This, at least, is how Gaza Attorney Fayiz Abu Rahmah expresses himself. And in a reaction of a different sort, a general strike is to be staged today to mark the beginning of the 12th month of the uprising. Our correspondent in the territories Arye Gus reports:

[Begin recording] [Gus] The two leading organizations in the territories—the pro-PLO Unified National Command of the Uprising and the Hamas or Islamic Resistance Movement—have called for this strike. By coincidence, the beginning of the 12th month of the uprising is being marked on the day that the outcome of the U.S. election has become known. People in the territories naturally follow the U.S. elections with interest; a U.S. President is a key figure for the future of the Palestinians.

Gaza's Fayiz Abu Rahmah, who was slated to participate in the joint Jordanian-PLO delegation for a dialogue with the United States, says he is optimistic. He says: I would like Mr Bush to hold more contacts with the PLO, to include the PLO in the international conference, and to agree to this conference.

[Abu Rahmah—in English] I would certainly say to Bush to have more contacts with the PLO, to allow the PLO to attend the international conference, and agree to the international conference, because the United States has not up to now agreed to the participation in the international conference...

[Gus interrupts, translates, and continues] Abu Rahmah says Bush is not a novice in the Middle East and is aware of the crisis in the area. Abu Rahmah expresses the hope that Bush will play a role in the peace process. This does not depend on the United States alone, he adds, and the United States will recognize the PLO only if the Palestinians meet several conditions which the U.S. Administration will pose to them.

These are the hopes, but, in the meantime, a general strike is scheduled for today. The IDF has reinforced its units in the territories and has conducted policing and other activities in dozens of villages. We have also learned of numerous detentions. It is everybody's conviction that the coming month will be no easier than the preceding months. [end recording]

Lahd's Condition 'Serious' Following Operation

TA0911072388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] The condition of General Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA] who is hospitalized in Haifa's Rambam Hospital, has deteriorated. During the night, his condition was defined as serious. Antoine Lahd was wounded on Monday by shots fired by an assassin who is a member of the Lebanese Communist Party and who used to frequent his house.

Our correspondent Haviva Roger reports that the deterioration was caused by developments following the operation carried out on a blood vessel in his right arm. Dr Tzvi Ben-Yishay, the assistant director of Rambam Hospital, said that the great amount of blood lost before the operation and the complex surgery itself were factors in the deterioration in Gen Lahd's condition, which is reflected in difficulties in stabilizing his blood pressure and other bodily functions.

Lahd Condition 'Stabilized'; Recovery in 2-3 Weeks

TA0911113788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] The condition of General Lahd, the commander of the South Lebanese Army, stabilized this morning, and Dr Shim'on Burstein, the director of the recovery ward at Rambam Hospital, estimates that Lahd will completely recover within 2 to 3 weeks. In a talk with our correspondent Haviva Roger, Dr Burstein said that although Lahd's condition is still grave, it stabilized this morning and, in his estimation, the postoperative symptoms will pass within 2 to 3 days.

SLA Kills 3 'Terrorists' in South Lebanon

TA0811174888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Three terrorists were killed in southern Lebanon this afternoon in a clash with soldiers of General Antoine Lahd's army. A South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol encountered the terrorist squad near the village of Falus, west of Jazzin. The terrorists were killed in the brief exchanges of fire that ensued. Lahd's men sustained no casualties.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht has been told by SLA headquarters that the SLA today carried out all its scheduled missions despite the fact that Gen Lahd is at Rambam Hospital in the wake of yesterday's attempt on his life.

Shomron on Attempted Lahd Murder, Demolitions

TA0811180688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Excerpts] The South Lebanese Army's [SLA] functioning remains unimpaired, said Major General Yosi Peled, commander of the Northern Command, following the attempt on the life of SLA Commander General Lahd. Lahd's condition is somewhat serious, but stable. He was visited today by the chief of staff and the commander of the northern command. Our correspondent Qobi Mandel reports from Haifa:

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] [Peled] This morning the SLA passed the real test of the impact of Lahd's absence when it performed some 30 prescheduled tasks. For me, the test was whether they would be able to carry out their job despite the situation. Well, they performed all the tasks exactly as they were planned before the attempt on Gen Lahd's life. For me, this is the real test of the army's conduct in difficult conditions. The answer, therefore, is that although the SLA soldiers suffer with their commander, the army continues functioning normally. We will see to it that this state of affairs continues. [end recording]

Some 2 weeks ago, Antoine Lahd was warned by his security men about the woman who attempted to assassinate him last night. Lahd disregarded the warning. This was revealed today by Chief of Staff Dan Shomron at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting. Our Knesset correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

[Begin recording] This was the first meeting of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee after the elections. The participants are still members of the old Knesset. The session was opened with a debate on yesterday's assassination attempt. Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, chief of staff, revealed that Lahd's security men had warned him that the woman, who had free access to his house, had to be watched. He ignored their warning. [passage omitted]

Knesset members raised the subject of house demolitions performed against rioters in the territories. Each act of ours in Judaea and Samaria is aimed at decreasing the level of the uprising. Almost each move we make involves some long-range damage, said Gen Shomron. He qualified his remarks by saying that on the other hand, we cannot allow the intifada [uprising] to run wild, because that, too, is serious in the long run. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Shomron Gives Statistics on 'Terrorist' Attacks

TA0811063488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Excerpts] The chief of staff, Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, says he expects that the Palestine National Council will issue a declaration of an independent Palestinian state when it convenes next week. He believes this is likely to stir feelings among the residents of the territories that their interests are advancing, and says the IDF is prepared to deal with any demonstration that may result. Gen Shomron was talking with reporters in Tel Aviv, and Alan Ben-'Ami has more details:

[Passage omitted] Referring to the recent spate of Palestinian infiltration efforts from Lebanon to Israel, Gen Shomron says they have been intended to demonstrate support for the actions of Palestinians in the territories. However, the IDF together with the SLA [South Lebanese Army] have successfully thwarted these infiltration efforts. Between the start of August and this week, 72 terrorists have been killed, 142 wounded, and 21 captured; 55 of these were killed and dozens wounded in Israeli air strikes on terrorist bases, and Gen Shomron says the air strikes are proving effective. Among the demands carried by terrorist infiltrators captured recently were calls to end the air attacks.

As to last night's unsuccessful assassination attempt against South Lebanese Army Commander General Antoine Lahd, Gen Shomron wished him a speedy recovery. He established himself well among all the communities in the security zone, and he has fulfilled all our expectations, said the chief of staff.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 8 November also reports on the chief of staff's remarks, adding: "As for the murder perpetrated in Massu'a yesterday, the chief of staff says that from the initial debriefing, it is impossible to unequivocally conclude that the murder was premeditated, although it surely resulted from nationalist motives. The chief of staff also addressed the call to impose the death penalty on terrorists. The law in this regard, he said, has been examined several times. This is a political as well as a security issue. The military advocate general may instruct the prosecution to demand the death penalty after consultations with the chief of staff, the justice minister, the defense minister, and the attorney general."]

Italy's Andreotti Arrives on '24-Hour Visit'

TA0811152488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti arrived in Israel for a 24-hour visit in a bid to find out how the peace process could be promoted. He did not deliver any announcement upon his arrival at Ben-Gurion Airport, and immediately set out for Jerusalem. He is scheduled to hold talks with the prime minister and the vice prime minister. Tonight he will be the guest of Mr Shamir for dinner at his residence; tomorrow he will visit Bethlehem.

Confers With Shamir, Peres

TA0811175688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti conferred for 90 minutes with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this evening, and later met Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. At the end of the meeting, Peres said Andreotti had come to find a way for a political solution of the Middle East conflict.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Prime Minister Shamir made it plain that Israel is willing to hold immediate negotiations with Egypt, Jordan, and a Palestinian delegation to discuss the principles of the Camp David accords, including autonomy and negotiations on the permanent arrangements. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1705 GMT on 8 November adds that "commenting on Andreotti's meeting with 'Arafat last week, Shamir said there would not be any negotiations with the PLO."]

3-Year Cultural Agreement Signed With SFRY

TA0411153488 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Nov 88 p 24

[ITIM report]

[Text] A cultural agreement between Israel and Yugoslavia has been signed between representatives of the two countries' writers associations, at an international writers conference in Yugoslavia, it was announced yesterday in Tel Aviv. The three-year accord will include exchange visits of writers, encouragement of translations, and the exchange of information about copyright laws.

SHAS Said Holding 'Key' to Coalition

TA0811203088 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Report by party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran]

[Excerpt] Contradictory trends mark the present political constellation, with the key held by SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim]—or more precisely, by Rabbi 'Ovadia Yosef [SHAS spiritual leader] and the Council of Sages.

After two rounds of talks with the ultraorthodox factions, figures in the Likud are more optimistic tonight regarding the chances of forming a government led by Yitzhaq Shamir. Minister David Levi, head of the negotiating team, says this will happen shortly. He adds that the Likud ministers view the demands of the Orthodox parties as reasonable in principle, a basis for a partnership.

The Likud will decide tomorrow what the Orthodox parties are to get. The decision will be made by the prime minister. The immediate problem the Likud will face is how to distribute the portfolios, which are coveted by all the parties.

The Orthodox parties' demands are: The National Religious Party [NRP] and SHAS demand the Interior portfolio. The NRP also wants the Religious Affairs portfolio. Agudat Yisra'el, SHAS, and NRP also demand the Housing and Construction portfolio. Agudat Yisra'el and SHAS are vying for the Labor and Welfare portfolio. Other demands focus on the conditions of religious education, which are to be brought up to the state education standards. The requested religious legislation includes the Who Is a Jew law, the Rabbinical Courts law, and the Authorization law. These are presented as ultimatums. As said, the Likud has already accepted these, as well as other demands concerning aid to needy families. It will be remembered that the same demands were presented to both the Likud and the Alignment.

SHAS speaks with two voices. Officially, the party is waiting for the decision of the Council of Sages which will meet on Saturday night to decide whom to support. Our correspondent Beni Liss reports that the SHAS secretariat approached the Council of Sages tonight, recommending that it support a union with the Alignment. Other voices in SHAS speak of a drafted agreement which the party expects the prime minister himself to approve. Alignment officials have said that they looked into the matter and found that no agreement exists, that everything is still open.

SHAS representatives will meet with President Herzog next Sunday. Until then, the outcome will be determined by the internal struggle between the Likud supporters in SHAS and those favoring the Alignment. [passage omitted]

Darawshah Interviewed on Meeting With Peres

JN0811215588 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] MK [Member of the Knesset] Abd al-Wahhab Darawshah, who won one seat in the elections, met with Shim'on Peres today. (Yudit Bovik), our correspondent for political affairs, interviewed him on what took place during this meeting:

[Begin recording] [(Yudit Bovik)] Abd al-Wahhab Darawshah, what were the topics dealt with during your talks? What was the objective behind meeting with Peres?

[Darawshah] We met with Shim'on Peres and the Labor Party's negotiating team in response to an invitation extended by Peres to meet with a delegation of the Arab Democratic Party [ADP] to hold talks with it on the current situation brought about by the elections and also on the type of the behavior that will be displayed by the ADP delegation when it meets the president on Thursday [10 November].

[(Yudit Bovik)] What will you say to the Israeli president?

[Darawshah] As a matter of fact, we explained two basic issues emanating from the principles in which we have faith; namely, the issue of a just peace and how is it to be attained. We also raised the issue of supporting the international conference, which must be attended by all parties to the conflict, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. We also raised the issue of changing the policy being pursued in the occupied territories.

Furthermore, we raised certain tangible issues regarding bringing about equality inside Israel. Peres promised that all of these issues will be discussed when negotiations are held on the coalition government. His general stand was positive toward the issues of peace and equality. In light of this positive stand, we decided to recommend to the Israeli president to entrust Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres with forming the coming government. [end recording]

Al-Baz Sends Darawshah 'Urgent Summons'

TA0811111288 Tel Aviv THE NATION in English 8 Nov 88 pp 1, 2

["Exclusive" report by Diane Shalem]

[Text] Jerusalem—'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah will soon find himself on the carpet in Cairo.

Yesterday, an urgent summons reached him from President Mubarak's political adviser Usamah al-Baz to present himself with an explanation of why his Arab Democratic Party ended up with only one Knesset seat.

THE NATION has learned that Egyptian officials are extremely disappointed by Darawshah's poor showing.

In October, the Labor party defector secretly went twice to Cairo to confer with Al-Baz on tactics.

Darawshah painted a rosy picture of his election prospects, saying he was sure of four or five Arab mandates at the very least—enough to decide between Labor and Likud who would lead the next government.

For Egypt, a strong showing by their man in the Knesset would have meant a finger in Israel's political pie.

Now the Egyptians want to know from the horse's mouth why their hopes evaporated.

NRP, UTJ Form 'Technical Bloc' for Talks

TA0311202788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Excerpt] The National Religious Party [NRP] and the United Torah Jewry [UTJ] are forming a technical bloc to conduct the coalition negotiations with the Likud. This was learned by our correspondent Shlomo Raz. The bloc will be composed of 10 Knesset members and will be larger than the two ultra-religious parties, SHAS [Torah-Observing Sephardim] and Degel Hatora, which include eight Knesset members. The two parties believe that their move will help them obtain better conditions when the government is formed. It is also believed in the NRP that the UTJ will adhere to its traditional policy and will not request cabinet portfolios, thus allowing NRP representation to grow. [passage omitted]

HA'ARETZ Suggests Moves for Likud, Alignment

TA0711131888 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Nov 88 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "Let Us See What He Can Do"]

[Text] Calm down, gentlemen, calm down. There is no point in pulling our hair out over the "Khomeyniite takeover" and other such expressions, nor in shedding tears over what could have happened but did not. It is really of no importance right now. The new post-election situation is as follows: The voters did not knock the Alignment down, as its opponents had predicted, and did not provide the Likud with the victory it had wished for. Both parties emerged by the skin of their teeth perhaps because the voters were thrilled neither by the leadership skills of both parties' leaders—who competed in a presidential-style campaign—nor by their personal ability to solve the problems on our agenda. On the other hand, out of the two clear political options—that of the national camp and that of the peace camp—some 1.3 million people, a modest majority, have chosen the way of the national camp. That is it. It is hard to argue with facts, but it would be wise to prepare for the future with a cool and reasoning mind.

A ray of hope and of consolation in the election results is the fact that the public restored the balance of normality on our political scene. It put an end (it is to be hoped) to the national unity nightmare that had undermined the foundations of our democracy. Remember, 1.3 million is more than half the voting population. With such a majority, or even a smaller one, a U.S. President is elected for 4 years. Here we can at least overthrow a government that fails, and opt for another one by holding early elections. The voters were careful and showed very limited confidence in allowing Shamir to show us what he really can do. This is a temporary and highly conditional confidence, seeing that the opposition benches are manned by 56 Knesset members [MK's] who are unanimous on a main issue in Israeli politics: peace.

I wonder if it is wise that 18 ultraorthodox Jews, most of whom have not served in the army, have given Shamir the power to decide whether our soldiers will live or die. The form in which this power was given to him, however, indicates a reservation. This is no "carte blanche." Those opposing Shamir can find consolation in the idea that it is better that the Likud tries to bring peace with a contentious government, full of fanatics, than have the Alignment try the same with a minority government that would give in to the religious parties and fail.

As said before, the voter was wise enough to choose one way, with a limited liability, and yet leave the other side enough power to enable it to build itself up as a strong and active alternative. If you wish, this is a healthy rotation system where the substitute for the prime minister sits where he belongs—at the head of the opposition.

Everything that was stated above leads to the conclusion that the Alignment should stop (if it has not done so) entertaining the idea of forming a minority government with some of the religious parties. It is true that the religious parties have regained the power they had in nine Knessets (15 to 19 MK's). This time, however, the National Religious Party is not the moderate party we knew before, and the ultraorthodox parties do not regard state affairs as their main interest. This time these are political parties that for religious reasons support the notion of Greater Israel. The Alignment leaders have rushed in vain to visit the Baba Barukh and have prostrated themselves in vain on the Baba Sali's grave [both spiritual leaders of Sepharadi Jews]. They put on yarmulkes and guarded the Sabbath to no avail. This is a new breed of religious people.

Peres and Rabin—and I do not see better men to lead the party in future trials—would be well advised not to humiliate themselves in demeaning and futile negotiations with the religious parties. If they do not want their party to disappear from the political scene completely, they would be even wiser to abandon dreams of participating in a new national unity government. The role of the Alignment now is to build itself as a clear alternative to the rule that is to be formed here in the next few weeks and play the important role of opposition—namely, to make the government's life difficult until the public decides to give them an opportunity to rule again.

This does not seem impossible in the near future. Shamir is not beginning an easy journey. A coalition with seven parties, one more fundamentalist and fanatic than the other, will not be easy to form, or even more so, to live with. The real problem, however, will emerge when Shamir will be forced to keep the big and unequivocal promises he made during the election campaign. His main promise was to bring peace. This is what the party's election slogan, "Only the Likud Can," referred to. In addition, he promised to attain many other great achievements: to put an end to the intifada [uprising], to maintain good relations with the United States, a healthy economy, and single-digit inflation.

Shamir will be requested to keep these promises quickly, which would force him to act with a care and caution not characteristic of the ideological structure of his prospective government. It is hard to imagine him covering the territories with settlements in the present state of the economy, or enforcing disgraceful supression in the territories while avoiding an open breach with the United States, causing it to stop its aid. It is also hard to envision Shamir rejoicing at the collapse of Koor, for instance, while cutting back the gross national product by 15 percent. It is hard to imagine him establishing halakic rule in Israel or allowing the economy to deteriorate, reaching an inflation rate as only the Likud could in 1981—because this would mean a very quick end to the Likud's rule.

From now on, Shamir will not be able to blame an Alignment marked by Peres' defeatism and subversiveness as the reasons for his own failures. This time he will be on his own and will have to prove what he can do with a strong opposition breathing down his neck. This is the situation. This is what more than half the people want, and although it is not an admirable choice, the people's will must be respected at least until it is ready to try the other way—once it is disappointed with Shamir. This is the very essence of democracy which, with God's help or without it, is still the best thing we have.

AL-NAHAR Warns Against 'Escalation' of Violence

TA0411185788 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
4 Nov 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Will There be A Real Arab Awakening?"]

[Text] The Israeli right wing has succeeded in gaining a majority that will enable it to form a rigid rightist government. The surprise in this election, however, is the large victory scored by the radical religious parties. As for Yitzhaq Shamir, the Likud leader, he considers the outcome of the elections as a mandate from the Israeli voter to use all means possible to quell the uprising in the occupied territories and to pursue a policy of not concluding a truce with the Palestinians and the Arabs. In other words, the mandate is for turning the hands of the clock backward. Therefore, the definite outcome of such a notion will be the escalation of hatred and violence as well as confrontation on new levels and dimensions not taken into consideration previously.

Shamir and the Israeli right wing will be making a mistake if they believe that because of their win the entire region is now in their hands and that they are alone in the political arena. The issue is too large to be dealt with by one side alone without the other side being present. Each side is trying to score and win the most points.

Israel, Shamir, and the right wing can adopt the policies on which they decide, but this does not obligate either the Palestinians or the Arabs. Furthermore, it does not obligate the other parties in the political solution game, including the great countries. Israel is not a great country that can ignore the international will and act in total isolation from the rest of the international community. There is much evidence indicating where such a path will end—suicide—and we do not believe that the Israeli people are aspiring for such an end.

Arab and Palestinian reaction has been marked by some pessimism about the region's fate and future. Some people are beginning to entertain doubts about the "peace process" which they believe would have been within grasp had the results of the elections been different. This is not correct. Shamir and the Israeli right wing will find themselves obliged to deal with reality, and will see that their electoral slogans will evaporate before the responsibility of governing and before Israel's international commitments as well as Israel's need for world aid and support.

On the other side, the Arabs and the Palestinians are obligated to rise to the level of responsibility to take a serious position. This they will not achieve except through Arab reconciliations and active solidarity with the Palestinian people. The Palestinian people's joy was great when at the Algiers summit conference all responsibilities pertaining to the Palestinian problem were handed over to the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. But no one entertained the thought that this would mean that the Arab nation would abandon its commitments and obligations toward the Arabs' primary cause. The Palestinian people are part of the Arab nation.

The uprising triggered by these people must constitute the light that scatters the darkness hovering over the Arab region. Nothing remains for the Arab nation but to accept the challenge imposed on it. After everyone has become convinced of regional failure to confront any challenge, the Arab nation should seek inspiration from its noble past and rise from its slumber in its preparation for entering the 1990's with a modern pan-Arab renaissance.

This is the answer to the reality in the region. Indifference as well as expressing pessimism and shedding tears for the "peace process" is not only useless but is an avoidance of responsibility.

Revival and strengthening of Arab reconciliation as well as restoration of solidarity is the only way that ensures the survival of the Arab nation by means of foiling Israeli schemes against this part of the Arab body. Otherwise, sooner or later other parts of this body will be afflicted also.

AL-FAJR Analyzes Election Consequences

TA0711140988 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English
6 Nov 88 p 4

[Editorial: "No More Confusion"]

[Text] The outcome of the Israeli elections is certainly a disappointment for many world governments and not up to their expectations. Many governments, including Israel's allies in the United States and Western Europe, and in the eastern camp, as well as some of the Arab countries and even a sector of the Palestinians, were hoping a Labor-led government would be elected. The theory was that the Labor was more sensible and reasonable than the right-wing Likud and more willing to reach a compromise on the acquisition of territory by force.

Now that the election results are known, the hope of a Labor government is fading and the reality of the situation is becoming clear. Anxiety is mounting over what the future government—which is expected to be Likud-dominated with a strong presence by the far-right-wing parties such as Teyiha and the fundamentalist religious parties—will do in Israel, the occupied territories, and the realm of international relations.

In the occupied territories, there is the fear that the Likud will use more brutal methods to suppress the 11-month-old intifada [uprising] regardless of the price and international reaction. This is not to say that the (expected) out-going Labor Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was soft in dealing with the Intifada. Rabin's policies were brutal, according to the testimony of every neutral observer of Israeli handling of the Palestinian uprising. Even the Likud expressed satisfaction with what he did.

The outcome of the Israeli elections should also clarify the decision-making for the Palestinian leadership in exile. The Palestine National Council is scheduled to convene November 12 to discuss future Palestinian strategy. It was expected that debate would be intense over adopting a strategy that would appeal to the Israeli and American policymakers to persuade them of the Palestinian Liberation Organization's moderate line so that they would accept it as a partner in future peace talks.

Now that it is clear the Likud will form a right-wing government, and since everyone knows the unyielding stand of the Likud on the Palestinian issue, a Palestinian decision based on this outcome should be made easier for everyone. Palestinian unity is expected to strengthen as dreams and false hopes of Israeli compromises evaporate. The PNC will then be expected to adopt a strategy that takes the initiative and dictates Palestinian policy rather than merely formulating a reactive policy based on what happens in other governments.

Shomron: PLO Hopes To Reap Political Gain

TA0811051188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] The chief of staff has said that the uprising in the territories is reaching a crossroads. The PLO, which is convening the PNC in several days, wants to translate the uprising into some sort of political achievement. Lieutenant General Shomron believes that the PNC will declare an independent Palestinian state. He believes that in the first stage there will be a feeling of achievement in the territories. The IDF is prepared for a possible increase in activity manifested by organizing large demonstrations to show support for the PLO.

The chief of staff pointed out that there have recently been infiltration attempts across the Lebanese border in order to demonstrate the partnership between those outside and the uprising. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the chief of staff gave a news conference to military correspondents this evening.

Gush Emunim Plans 11 Settlements in November

TA0311064088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 3 Nov 88

[Text] Gush Emunim has prepared 15 trailers for the establishment of a settlement in the Gaza Strip's Qatif Bloc within the next few days. Our settlement affairs correspondent reports that yesterday the settlers' representatives in the Gaza Strip met with the National Religious Party, Tzomet, and Moledet representatives and asked for their aid in establishing four new settlements. The manpower for establishing these settlements is ready to be put into action. According to the settlement plan, named 2 November, 11 new settlements are to be established during November.

AL-NAHAR on Shamir Remarks on Settlements

TA0811155388 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 7 Nov 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "A Clear Response is Required"]

[Text] Likud leader and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has pledged to give free rein to the Israeli settlement drive in the occupied Arab territories immediately upon forming the next government. This pledge did not surprise anyone, because this is what we expect from an extremist right-wing government.

Shamir is undoubtedly ignoring all the recent developments in the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas. On the Palestinian level, the Palestinian resolve represented in the protests and fury in the occupied territories has made its voice heard to the Israeli people and world public opinion. It has become clear to everyone now that the status quo cannot possibly continue, that the Palestinian people have to gain their rights, and that sooner or later Israel must withdraw from the occupied territories. This is what is required on the Palestinian level and this is what the uprising in the occupied territories has expressed. It has become obvious that the Palestinian people's political objectives are the termination of occupation and the attainment of sovereignty over the land within the process of achieving peace.

The Arab position, meanwhile, is a firm one, calling for the convocation of a plenary international peace conference with the aim of restoring real peace in the region. This peace cannot be achieved without the Palestinian people regaining their rights over their land. Hence, Shamir's pledge to give free rein to the settlement drive is an effort to block the way to this Arab tendency toward peace. Furthermore, the results of the Israeli elections and the victory of the extreme right wing as well as their known plans require a reappraisal of Arab constants after the bets on the peace camp inside Israel have failed. There is no longer any room for all the theories based on the assumption of Israel accepting the principle of reconciliation and giving up land in return for peace. These pledges by Shamir are a clear expression of what we should expect from the next Israeli Government. We now have to confront this Israeli intransigence with a unified Arab stance by organizing pan-Arab action able to utilize various options.

As for the international level, the best evidence of world public opinion's rejection of Israel's practices is the recent UN General Assembly resolution which was meant to affirm world support for the Palestinian cause, and which showed that the uprising has gained a place in world conscience and that there are people who are trying to achieve their rights and gain their freedom.

These are the realities that Shamir refuses to accept, relying on Israel's military power and Arab fragmentation. There is nothing that would oblige Shamir, within the framework of the balance of power and based on his faith in the principle that might makes right, to undertake a reassessment of Israeli policy. Therefore, he rejects even the notion that the Palestinian people have rights or that they are suffering under occupation; rather, he considers the Palestinian people a minority living on Israeli soil having neither rights nor a homeland.

Shamir's stance is clear. The Palestinian and Arab response should have the same clarity.

Border Police To Double Size in Areas by Mid-1989

TA0411152988 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Nov 88 p A2

[Report by Re'uven Shapira]

[Text] By mid-1989, Border Police troops in the West Bank and Gaza Strip will have doubled their number of a year ago. The number of Border Police troops deployed in Jerusalem and its environs has quadrupled since the beginning of the intifada [uprising]. Many Border Police units in the territories have been expanded since the beginning of the year, particularly at the request of the IDF and the Defense Ministry. New units have been created, with more to come on line by mid-1989.

Security sources point out that the Border Police is one of the main forces in charge of maintaining public order and dealing with the prolonged disturbances and riots in the territories. Border Police units in the territories are subordinate to the IDF and serve under the command of military officers.

Senior IDF officers praise the operations of Border Police units in the territories, mainly in view of the relatively low number of civilian casualties caused as a result of dealing with numerous riots there. One of the reasons for this is that these are regular units which spend extended tours of duty in the field and are trained to deal with civilians. Consequently, the IDF has recently shown an interest in deploying a yet larger number of Border Police units, both regular and reserves. Discussions on the issue were recently conducted by senior security levels.

Smuggling Attempts Over Jordan Bridges Uncovered

TA0411155488 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 4 Nov 88 pp A1, 2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef, Ya'aqov Rahamim, and Ran Dagoni]

[Excerpt] The security forces recently foiled several attempts to smuggle weapons, explosives, and funds from the PLO to the uprising committees in the territories. These items were meant to be conveyed on trucks delivering goods over the Jordan River bridges. As a consequence, and following the questioning of the drivers, it has been decided to change the security arrangements along the bridges, carry out more careful searches, and take further measures to prevent such smuggling.

It should be noted that several weeks ago the PLO decided to step up the struggle in the territories after the elections in Israel, and to instruct the intifada [uprising] leaders to open fire at Israeli targets. An announcement to that effect was also attributed to Hani al-Hasan, who reportedly issued it in Egypt.

Intensive efforts by the security forces have led to the exposure of several attempts to transfer weapons and money from the PLO to the inhabitants of the territories. The security forces have confirmed these reports but at the same time explained that there is no intention of closing the bridges to the passage of goods. They emphasized, nevertheless, that from now on the steps that will be taken to prevent smuggling would be far harsher than before.

The transfer of money to the inhabitants of the territories has continued despite Husayn's decision to cut off ties between the two banks of the Jordan River and to cease paying the salaries of West Bank residents. The security forces believe that monies are also being transferred through Israeli and Arab banks as well as by tourists visiting the territories. [passage omitted]

'U.S. Resident' Arrested for Smuggling Weapons

TA0811182188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] It was released for publication this evening that a Jewish woman living in Jerusalem who arrived at Haifa Port aboard a ship from the United States yesterday morning tried to smuggle in sabotage material. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the woman was arrested during customs checks. She was found in the possession of two Kalashnikov rifles, two telescopic sights for rifles, a short-barreled pistol, a commando knife, and ammunition.

As noted, the 27-year-old woman is a U.S. resident who alternately lives in Jerusalem and has an apartment there. She argued that she needed the weapons for self-defense. It is still unclear whether this is a criminal or security case.

Nabulus Court Sentences 4 'Terrorists' to Jail

TA0911115288 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Nov 88 p 4

[ITIM report]

[Text] The Nabulus court yesterday sentenced four terrorists for a series of terrorist acts committed within the boundaries of Israel and which caused casualties. The terrorists, who operated in the years 1985-6, were given prison terms ranging from 8 to 13 years.

The terrorists, who were detained on 1 November 1987, belonged to the DFLP. Hand grenades, Kalashnikov submachineguns, demolition charges, and many other weapons were found in their possession.

Among the terrorist acts they had committed were:

—placing a bomb in Kefar Sirkin on 20 March 1985; the bomb exploded and injured two Israelis.

—placing two bombs on Dizengoff Street in Tel Aviv; one of them was dismantled while the other went off and injured a young woman.

—placing a bomb on Herzl Street in Ramat Gan; the bomb went off and injured two people.

—an attempt to hit an Israeli bus on the Trans-Samaria highway near Ari'el by placing an explosive charge and shooting at the bus with submachineguns.

The last terrorist act was carried out by the squad on 31 October 1987, when it attempted to set off an explosive charge on Jerusalem's French Hill on Balfour Day. This attempt failed because one of the squad members, while on his way from Bi'r Zayt University to French Hill, mistakenly activated the charge which exploded and severed both his arms.

The four terrorists are: Hilmi Mahmud Muhammad Fuqara', aged 38, from the village of 'Anabta, was given an 8-year prison term. Jamal 'Abd al-Fatah 'Abd al-Jabbar Shahin, aged 28, from the village of Salfit, was sentenced to 8 years in prison. Zaydan Hasan Zuhadi Fatuni, aged 25, from the village of Salfit, was sentenced to 10 years in prison. Ahmad 'Abd al-Qadir Muhammad Abu-Numayr, aged 24, from the village of Salfit, whose hands were severed while attempting to place the explosive charge, was given a 13-year prison term.

Disturbances, Strikes Reported in Territories

Protest Strike in Al-Taiyiba

TA0811125888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] More disturbances are reported from Al-Taiyiba in the Triangle, where about 20 people were hurt in disturbances yesterday when police went in with demolition crews to destroy 15 structures that had been erected without licenses.

Police this morning used tear gas to disperse scores of Al-Taiyiba youths who blocked the entrance to the village. The youths reportedly threw stones at the police and burned tires on the road.

Al-Taiyiba is closed down today by a protest strike called by the local council. The National Committee of Arab Local Authorities has protested at the demolitions. The committee sent telegrams to the minister of police and the interior minister. Representatives of Arab organizations will meet on Thursday in Al-Taiyiba to discuss the issue. More demolitions are pending in Arab villages in Galilee and the Triangle.

Buildings Razed; Strike Planned

TA0811172588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] The security forces today demolished some 20 illegal buildings in the Jiftlik area in the Jordan Rift Valley and evacuated Arabs who lived in the area without a permit. Our correspondent reports that the move comes in the wake of the murder of soldier David Daniyeli in Moshav Massu'a yesterday.

Two Arabs were wounded today in Judaea and Samaria by IDF soldiers' gunfire, one in Nabulus and another in Ramallah.

Arab sources in the Gaza Strip report 10 wounded persons: 3 in Khan Yunus, 3 in Dayr al-Balah, 1 in Rafah, and 1 in the city of Gaza.

In Tulkarm, the security forces sealed up four alleys from which Arabs youngsters would throw stones and firebombs at IDF patrols.

A general strike is scheduled in the territories tomorrow to mark the beginning of the 12th month of the uprising.

Woman Injured by Thrown Stone

TA0811204688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] A 52-year-old woman was wounded about 1 hour ago. Her injury is defined as somewhat severe to severe. She was injured in the head by a stone that was thrown at the taxi in which she was riding. The incident occurred on the Kokhav Ya'ir-Kefar Sava road, near Kibbutz Eyal. A Magen David Adom medical team transferred the unconscious woman to Beilinson Hospital in Petah Tiqwa.

E. Jerusalem Merchants Fined After 7 Month Trial

TA0811132588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Excerpt] A 2-month suspended sentence and a 500- to 750-shekel fine was handed down today to the 14 East Jerusalem shopkeepers who followed instructions in the intifada [uprising] leaflets, thus violating the emergency orders issued by the commander of the Central Command. Our legal affairs correspondent Shlomi Stein reports:

On 24 April the 14 shopkeepers were detained after they had opened and closed their stores for 2 days in accordance with the intifada leaflets, thus violating orders of the commander of the Central Command. Their trial has been going on since then for almost 7 months. During this period one of the merchants was placed under administrative detention. Two others were detained for throwing stones and were later released. The court stipulated that in this case a deterrent punishment is called for so that all other merchants can see and beware—and in the future, to make sure that they follow Israeli law and not the intifada threats. The court added, however, that since the men facing trial are not criminals who throw stones, they would not be imprisoned.

Four of the merchants opened stores in June as well, also against orders. They were fined 750 shekels. The other 10 were fined 500 shekels. All of them are facing a 2-month suspended sentence for 2 years. The judge allowed the shopkeepers not to pay the fine, but rather serve 1 month in prison. [passage omitted]

Amman Notes UN Resolution Condemning Israel

JN0411205588 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Text] The United Nations General Assembly has condemned Israel's policies and practices violating the human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab lands.

A resolution adopted by the General Assembly last night also demanded that Israel abide by the fourth Geneva convention on treatment of civilians in times of war. It asked the United Nations secretary general to examine the situation in the occupied lands by all available means and submit periodic reports. Furthermore, the resolution strongly deplored the continuing disregard by Israel of the relevant decisions of the Security Council. It reaffirmed that the occupation by Israel of the territories, including Jerusalem, in no way changes their legal status.

The General Assembly adopted the resolution by a vote of 130 to 2, with 16 abstentions. The United States and Israel cast the negative votes.

Jordan's ambassador at the United Nations, Dr 'Abdallah Salah, put forward the resolution on behalf of over 50 states. Addressing the General Assembly, Dr Salah said: The Palestinian uprising is a crucial development in the Palestinian problem, which cannot be resolved, he said, unless Israel ends its occupation of Arab lands. He urged the United Nations to shoulder its responsibilities in implementing the Security Council resolutions concerning the occupied lands.

Military Courts To Hear Price-Raising Charges

JN0511081788 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Nov 88 p 1

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—Prime Minister Zayid al-Rifa'i, acting in his capacity as the military governor general, has referred a number of merchants, industrialists and clearing agents to the military court for raising prices of goods, adulteration and non-adherence to the specifications and for falsifying customs declarations.

Upon the directives of Al-Rifa'i, Interior Minister Raja'i al-Dajani has ordered the establishment of an office at the ministry to receive citizens' complaints about prices or withholding by merchants of goods and refusing to sell them to the public. The government has pledged to take severe measures against any one who tries to speculate in commodities or to raise prices or violate specifications.

Bank Official on Counterfeit U.S. Dollars

JN0811153188 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] An official at the Central Bank of Jordan stated the following:

Some counterfeit foreign currency notes have recently been seized, especially U.S. $100 bills, as they were being sold to one of the financial institutions in the Kingdom. Therefore, the Central Bank warns the honorable citizens and hopes that everyone will cooperate to unveil such cases, take greater precautions when dealing with foreign currency, and inform the Central Bank and the Public Security Departments if such cases are discovered.

AL-RA'Y Columnist on Israeli Elections

JN0311095688 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Nov 88 p 22

["Every Day" column by Rakan al-Majali: "The Arabs and the Israeli Elections"]

[Text] A new chapter of the Arabs' expectations ended yesterday with the results of the Israeli elections—ending with a victory of the rightwing and confirming the racist nature of the Zionist entity and the religious fanaticism which dominates the Zionist movement. The religious parties scored the best results they have ever scored since establishment of the Zionist entity. It has become evident that these parties alone are now capable of controlling the Zionist entity's future in the forthcoming stage. It has also become evident that the Zionist reply to the peace calls has come in the form of more extremism and arrogance. Dreams of a settlement in the region, whether by international or regional forces, have been dissipated.

We do not want to discuss here the details of what happened or the political power balance within the Zionist society. AL-RA'Y published studies, researches, and analyses about this subject over the past weeks. We do not want here to also reemphasize the aggressive nature of Zionism. We must now pause before a new stage after everyone realizes that there is no hope in a political settlement.

What is important now is the Arab stand, its unity, and the return to the pan-Arab bases on which the conflict with the Zionist enemy was founded from the beginning. What is required now is for the Arabs to move out of the field of reactions and have their own specific actions and course.

The process of awaiting the results of the Israeli elections and those of the U.S. elections—and, before these, the French elections—or any event in the international arena is only an attempt to convince oneself of a delusion from the premise of one's impotence.

We do not view the victory of the Likud and the extremist rightwing parties on the basis that it has aborted the peace efforts. We view this victory from the premise of the hysterical postulates which call for expansion, aggression, the mass deportation of the Palestinian people, and all the other demented calls and postulates.

Therefore, what is important now, as it was yesterday, and as it will be important in the future, is to have an Arab stand that stems from a pan-Arab sense of responsibility and the need to confront all perils. This stand must be cohesive, take into consideration fateful challenges, and be aware of the nature of the conflict with our Zionist enemy.

The first and most important basis of any serious Arab action is to revive the eastern front and bring about a Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement to pave the way for a meeting of all the confrontation states prior to a comprehensive Arab meeting.

We have more than once affirmed the dire need to revive the Arab summit institution, invigorate its role, and transform it into a body for advanced pan-Arab action that will be different from the current routine action of the Arab League. On this basis, the Arab League would become an effective instrument, and periodic Arab meetings whether at the foreign, interior, defense, and information ministers level, or at any other level would become a branch of the Arab summit institution and one of its effective bodies.

The advanced pan-Arab responsibility embodied in the Baghdad summit and which transformed the entire Arab homeland into an arena of confrontation of the conspiratorial schemes is the only formula that is capable of achieving the unity of Arab ranks and of creating a state of real Arab solidarity for the confrontation of the challenges.

Pan-Arab action can take place through Arab blocs but on condition that these blocs do not become axes, do not distance themselves from their pan-Arab responsibilities, and do not focus their attention on the problems of only this or that part of the Arab homeland. This can take place while always reaffirming that the Palestinian cause is the central cause and that any action in its service must take place through a comprehensive Arab stand and with a spirit of pan-Arab responsibility.

From this premise, the cries for war and revenge that Shamir, Sharon, Kahane, and may others launch must remind us that the cause is the cause of all the Arabs and that it can be resolved only through the confrontation of the challenges by closing ranks and by having all the Arabs assume the burden of confrontation.

In any case, the failure of the Arabs to attain a solution is due to the impairment in the balance of power which tips in favor of our enemy, to the state of Arab division and fragmentation, and to the absence of a pan-Arab solution project. It goes without saying that the treatment of this Arab weakness and impotence will be the beginning that will lead to political and military victories.

U.S. Accused of 'Spewing Forth Vulgar Rhetoric'

JN0611104488 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Nov 88 p 4

[Editorial: "The Telling Posture"]

[Text] The United States' vote Thursday of the U.N. General Assembly resolution condemning Israel's actions in the West Bank and Gaza reminds us that American policy in the region continues to reflect the intellectual posture of the fellow who waves a sword with one hand and an olive branch with the other.

The American government's view that the resolution is "imbalanced," and that it condemns only one of the parties, is spurious, for that party, Israel, is occupying another people's land by force and by the strength of nearly four billion dollars of American direct and indirect support every year.

The imbalance at the root of the Palestinian-Zionist conflict is in large part due to the American policy of giving more weight to Israeli rights than to Arab and Palestinian rights—despite the pleasant sounding rhetoric we hear from the American representative at the U.N. American policy—judged by actions, not words—would suggest that the United States fundamentally supports the reality of Israel's actions its diplomatic position, while it supports the concept of Palestinian and Arab rights only rhetorically.

When the American representative says that "we grieve for the loss on both sides," we feel obliged to respond that we do not believe him; for the actions of his government indicate that the grieving in Washington is very much more for Israelis than for Palestinians and other Arabs. It is a reflection of the status quo that the United States can maintain its pro-Israeli policies while shamelessly offering false and unsubstantiated rhetoric that attempt to make the U.S. appear to be an impartial and morally guided party.

We are used to Washington's intemperate, biased policy in the region; we only wish American officials would spare us the insult—and themselves the ignominy—of spewing forth vulgar rhetoric that purports to convey a position of moral balance.

Prime Minister Discusses Army Reorganization

NC0911081988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has emphasized that the cabinet will meet on any date it deems appropriate. He also stated that the cabinet is no longer involved in the decision regarding the reorganization of the Army's brigades now that it has authorized Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayrn to make this decision.

Sami al-Khatib Appointed Acting Army Commander

NC0911114688 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1135 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Defense Minister 'Adid 'Usayran has commissioned Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib with the tasks of Army commander. The defense minister has issued the following decisions:

Article I: The post of Army commander is considered vacant: and

Article II: Brig Gen Sami al-Khatib is hereby tasked with the duties of Army commander as long as the post continues to be vacant.

It should be recalled that 'Usayran visited Government House this morning and held the necessary contacts prior to issuance of this decision. He then conveyed the decision to newsmen.

Front Says Appointment 'False'

NC0911125188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMt 9 Nov 88

[Text] The Lebanese Front meeting has just ended. The front issued a statement which contains a direct response to the assignment of Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib.

The statement notes that this assignment was effected by a person enjoying no legal capacity to make such a decision, and, consequently, the decision is false and lacks any legal or legitimate factors. The statement further maintains that this assignment is bound to demonstrate the true Syrian objectives, which aim to disintegrate and partition Lebanon.

Syrian 'Intervention' Alleged

NC0711181588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Informed political sources disclosed to the CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY today that a strong Syrian intervention over last weekend resulted in a compromise between political and party figures in West Beirut regarding military appointments. According to this compromise, Dr Salim al-Huss and PSP leader Walid Junblatt reached implicit agreement on filling the vacant posts in West Beirut's military command and on deciding not to appoint a commander for the Army. The sources pointed out that the Syrian intervention came as a result of Junblatt's insistence on appointing Lieutenant Colonel Riyad Taqiy al-Din as chief of staff, although he had no right to this post as there were other officers senior to him entitled to the post, and although Taqiy al-Din did not seem to be qualified to reorganize the army brigades.

According to the news agency, the intervention led to a solution satisfying all the Muslim sects and leaders in West Beirut and it was agreed to appoint Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib chief of staff, a measure acceptable to the Sunni leaders who were originally opposed to such a step. It was also agreed to appoint brigadiers General Sa'id al-Qa'qur and Ghassan Dahir and Lt Col Riyad Taqiy al-Din as aides to Al-Khatib, and Colonel Nabih Farhat as director of intelligence.

Ja'ja' Discusses Political, Military Situation

PM0811154088 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 4 Nov 88 pp 15-20

[Interview with Lebanese Forces commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' by representatives of the Alf Laylah Wa Laylah publications—AL-HAWADITH, LA REVUE DU LIBAN, AL-BAYRAQ, MONDAY MORNING—Raymond Qawwas, Nadim al-Hashim, Joseph Qusayfi, William Dahir, Christian Usi, and Antoine Shidyaq; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: We will make this a confrontational interview. Do you agree?

Ja'ja': Certainly.

AL-HAWADITH: We will try to be devil's advocates.

Ja'ja': So long as you are not the devil himself. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Is the Israeli element in the Lebanese arena after 23 September stronger than it was before that date, and what effect is it having on the situation?

Ja'ja': Israel has a security theory about its northern borders. That theory has always been there and daily events confirm the importance of that theory to the Israeli side. That is why I hold the view that the more operations are mounted against Israel the more it interferes in Lebanon. In the past we and many others tried to repudiate the Israeli theory.

However, whenever the fundamentalist operations in the South increased, the Israeli northern security theory was proven more and more by actual events, and the Israelis sent in more troops and moved deeper into the South. So mounting such operations is tantamount to inviting Israel to enter southern Lebanon.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you expect an Israeli sweep into Lebanon or a Syrian-Israeli war on Lebanese territory?

Ja'ja': Not in the foreseeable future, I do not think, but I expect more tension between Israel and the fundamentalists in southern Lebanon.

AL-HAWADITH: There are those who maintain that what is happening in Lebanon reflects the wishes of the enemies of Lebanon who could not ask for a more chaotic situation than that prevailing in Lebanon. What do you say?

Ja'ja': I can at least say that there is a very broad common denominator between Syria and Israel on the Palestinian question. Events of the past 4 years are the best proof of that. Syria has killed and displaced more Palestinians than Israel. Damascus has done more political harm to the Palestinian cause than Israel. There is a significant common denominator between Syria and Israel, particularly on the Palestinian issue. Everything happening at present points to that.

Observe what is happening. Syria strikes at the Palestinians in Burj al-Barajibah in Beirut while Israeli aircraft raid the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp in Sidon, as though both Syria and Israel are committed to destroying the Palestinians, each acting in a certain sector. What clearer evidence of the common interests between them do you want?

AL-HAWADITH: Do the Lebanese Forces hold any political detainees?

Ja'ja': No, no, no. The facts and figures say not. Let anyone who has evidence to the contrary come and confront me with it. There are security detainees held on the charge of planting explosives or mines.

AL-HAWADITH: Do the Lebanese Forces hold any hostages or prisoners?

Ja'ja': No, none whatever.

AL-HAWADITH: Anglican Bishop Brown was commissioned by the Anglican Church to visit Lebanon and discuss with Patriarch Sfayr the question of the disappearance of three Iranian diplomats in 1982, and Bkirki [the patriarch's headquarters] contacted you in this connection.

Ja'ja': We were asked about the matter. In those days Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil was commander of the Lebanese Forces and Elie Hubayqah was the head of both the security and intelligence organs. I was an official in al-Qattarah. When I took over the command headquarters there were no Iranian diplomats or Iranian detainees there. If Iran really wants to know about its diplomats then it should ask its ally Damascus to question Elie Hubayqah, who was head of security and intelligence at the time. Why should the Iranians ask the British and why should the British go to Bkirki? Let them ask their Syrian allies to question Hubayqah about the matter. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Do you favor a merger of the two governments into one under Prime Minister al-Huss as some people are requesting?

Ja'ja': There are no two governments, let us agree on that.

AL-HAWADITH: Well, then, let us say a merger of General 'Awn's government with the "al-Sana'i' group."

Ja'ja': So it is a plan to extend the government that is being studied by Gen 'Awn, who is the one to decide whether or not to enlarge the government and whether to include figures from the "Al-Sana'i' grouping" or elsewhere. I imagine there are plans for the government's expansion. Gen 'Awn is studying them and so are we, as plans to do with the expansion of Gen 'Awn's government. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Is the current alliance between you and Gen 'Awn a temporary or a strategic one?

Ja'ja': Let me correct some misconceptions on this occasion. In abstract terms an alliance is usally between two different states or groups. So, that word should not be used in internal matters. As far as we are concerned, it is not a question of alliance or no alliance. Everyone knows that there was no alliance between us and Gen 'Awn. The fact is that Gen 'Awn's present position and his current political views and practices are reasons for us to support him. We are neither allies nor adversaries. We support his position and political views and practices. If he changed we would change. It is not a question of an alliance of interests.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you support him for the presidency?

Ja'ja': There is no objection to that.

AL-HAWADITH: Are you a presidential candidate?

Ja'ja': No. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Why did you give President al-Jumayyil an ultimatum, saying that he must leave Lebanon?

Ja'ja': We did no such thing. He left on a European and Arab tour and said so himself. I am sorry that after all that has happened Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil still has not learned from the examples of the past, and for him telling lies is still the essence. As regards financial matters, I leave it to even the most humble citizen to pass judgement.

AL-HAWADITH: In other words, there is a political and personal boycott between you and him.

Ja'ja': It is not a question of boycotts. I believe that Shaykh Amin no longer exists as a politial force. So it is not a matter of boycotts. He has ended his own political career through his practices in office and the actual results of these practices. Shaykh Amin's era was one of the worst ever known in Lebanon. He finished himself. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: There is noticeable Arab activity in connection with Lebanon, which could produce a new initiative or summit conference. Are you satisfied with this activity?

Ja'ja': That is a very vast question. I am most satisfied with that activity and I wish it had occurred before, because it would have spared us Arabs and the entire region some major problems. As regards the background to that activity, there can be no doubt that it is in part connected with Lebanon. The Arab states are aware of the Lebanese problem and are making efforts to resolve it. On the other hand the Arab activity is also connected with the general Arab situation.

Although labeled as activity in connection with Lebanon, it really shows the extent of Syrian isolation and of Arab confusion regarding the Syrian role. The fact that all the Arab states from Libya to Sudan, Egypt, Jordan, the PLO, and Iraq are unanimously agreed on movement in one direction, whereas Syria—and Syria alone—moves in another reflects the extent of the Syrian dilemma. [passage omitted]

We urge the Arab League to give the Lebanese question top priority and we call for an Arab summit conference which, we suggest, should make the following decisions:

1. End the Syrian tutelage in Lebanon and rescind the Arab mandate given to it at the Amman summit conference.

2. Withdraw the Syrian Army from Lebanon. As a first step the Syrian Army should withdraw from Beirut to facilitate the election of a president.

3. Put pressure on such international circles as the United Nations and the Security Council to get all foreign armies out of Lebanon and implement the UN resolutions issued in this connection.

AL-HAWADITH: What is the state of your present and future relations with Syria?

Ja'Ja': There are no relations with Syria at present. As regards the future, that would depend on Syria's attitude. If it maintained its occupation of Lebanon and attempts to control it then we would maintain the same conflicting and hostile stances, but if Syria, as a state, were to see reason and treat Lebanon as a free, independent, and sovereign state, then our relations with Syria would naturally change and there would be no cause for estrangement or hostility.

AL-HAWADITH: What is the truth about your ties with Israel? It has been claimed that you and General 'Awn are trying to create a Christian ghetto supported by Israel.

Ja'ja': That is strange. What has kept the Middle East region backward is the lack of objectivity in tackling issues. When all the Arab states without exception are acting in Lebanon's interests and when the Arab League is trying hard to settle the Lebanese question, when all that is going on and when these states are establishing relations with us and with Gen 'Awn's government, how could anyone ask the question or claim that this is an Israeli situation? Have all the Arabs become Israelis with just Syria remaining Arab? That claim is totally rejected. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Is there any possibility of the United States' changing its position on the U.S.-Syrian agreement?

Ja'ja': The Al-Asad-Murphy agreement was finished when 23 September passed without Mikha'il Dahir's election. So in effect the agreement is finished. I do not know whether the Americans intend to embark on another initiative but it is clear that one should not expect any new American initiative or move in the region before the U.S. elections.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the French initiative?

Ja'ja': It is a very good initiative and, toghether with the Arab initiatives, it carries the seeds of a solution to the crisis. It is regrettable, however, that any such initiative is being nipped in the bud by Syria. The entire Syrian team in Lebanon rejected the French initiatve as soon as it was submitted. We support the French initiative. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: What about Maronite-Maronite reconciliation?

Ja'ja': Between whom?

AL-HAWADITH: Between you and [former] President Franjiyah.

Ja'ja': I am sorry that this war has produced cliches which the people readily use. Is President Franjiyah capable of making decisions now? As long as there is a single Syrian soldier in the North President Franjiyah will be unable to make any decisions, but we know his positions in Geneva and Lausanne. He opposed the tripartite agreement and then went to Damascus and supported it. If President Franjiyah enjoyed freedom of choice and decision I would have said: Yes, why should there not be a Maronite-Maronite reconciliation? Our disagreement is not with him but with Syria. He disagrees with us in his capacity as Syria's representative. So it is not really a Maronite-Maronite problem, as some like to portray it. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Do you expect a security flareup?

Ja'ja': I doubt the possibility of any security explosions because the positions of all sides, particularly in the eastern sector, are known and everyone knows that no side can change the position of the other by military pressure. That is why I believe that nobody will resort to military pressure. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: If the elections do not take place, would that mean accepting partition? What is your option?

Ja'ja': As far as we are concerned, partition is out of the question. Had that been an option we would not have fought the battles we did in Bhamdun, regardless of the outcome; we would not have defended our postions east of Sidon to the death and irrespective of results; and we would not have ferociously defended Dayr al-Ahmar, al-Qibyat, Tripoli, and Shikka. It is completely out of the question.

From now on our only option is liberation. We have no other option. Liberation does not necessarily mean a military war to be launched in the near future. It is, rather, a psychological war, a political war, a mobilization of all resources, a clarification of the picture, and a projection of and insistence on rights. As far as the rest is concerned, we will cross that bridge when we come to it. We are for a united Lebanon, all 10,452 square km of it.

Sfayr Plan for Election Crisis Outlined

NC0811154788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] In an exclusive report from the Vatican, the BAYRUT NEWS AGENCY has reported that Patriarch Sfayr has proposed to U.S. official Edward Walters a comprehensive plan to resolve the presidential election crisis in Lebanon. The agency said that the plan contained the following points:

1. The election would be held on the basis of a new list of five candidates which was drawn up after the meeting of the Christian deputies in Bkirki.

2. The first government under the new regime would evaluate the required constitutional reforms according to a schedule for the implementation of these reforms.

3. The Syrian Army would withdraw from West Beirut as a first step. The Lebanese Army would assume responsibility for security in Greater Beirut after the army brigades are integrated and all shows of armed force are removed.

4. The Syrians and the Israelis would pull out simultaneously from the Al-Biqa' and the South, at a later date.

The agency said that the provisions of the plan were talked over with the U.S. official and that the new U.S. Administration would discuss the plan with Syrian officials.

Birri: Sfayr Election Plan 'Trick'

NC0811191488 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri said today, in response to reports that the names of several Maronite candidates for the presidency would be submitted, that this is a trick designed to avoid the need for changing the political system or carrying out reforms. Birri added: Lebanon does not need, under all circumstances, the institution of the presidency.

Birri Discusses Palestinians, Other Issues

JN0411175288 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 2 Nov 88 p 6

[By Rafiq Nasrallah]

[Excerpts] In an important interview with the AL-ITTIHAD, Minister Nabih Birri [leader of the Amal Movement in Lebanon] has revealed the truth about Lebanese events. He said the situation resembles what happened in Palestine in 1947. He said: Regrettably, Lebanon is heading toward partition. Birri accused Israel of planning to invade Lebanon once again.

Birri revealed that five ships full of arms have reached the Lebanese Forces, and said: We will not resort to the military option, because in Lebanon, there can no victor and no vanquished. [passage omitted]

[Nasrallah] Is the U.S.-Syrian agreement on elections in Lebanon still standing, and to what extent?

[Birri] This agreement was reached about a person and a program. I think that it still stands in its minimum limits and recent U.S. statements reflect this. They say: We support the agreement, we oppose the agreement, and we are neutral. Like British policy in the Middle East—We support the Arabs, we are against the Arabs, and we are neutral.

The latest stand of the Americans is that they adhere to the agreement, but they cannot implement it. It seems to me that the Americans superficially support the U.S.-Syrian agreement, but they are not willing to exert pressure to implement it. This is due to many reasons, most important of which is the Israeli factor. Before the U.S. elections, the Israeli factor is bigger than the American factor anywhere in the United States. The American cannot exert pressure in Lebanon now as long as Israel can disrupt the elections because, since Kissinger's plan, Israel aims to fragment Lebanon. I am not optimistic about the implementation of this U.S.-Syrian agreement.

Regarding his expectations about Israeli aggressiveness, he said: The Israeli invasion in 1988 was more important and dangerous. In 1982, the resistance in the South, Khaldah, and the Lebanese arena was able to retaliate and gave Israel a lesson that it cannot forget. Yet, the new invasion is a political one.

[Nasrallah] Let us move to the south. There is an increasing talk about different developments in Sidon area. What is going on there?

[Birri] Once again, I say that the issue depends on our Palestinian brothers. We have said that that we were afflicted. Before the camps war, Nabih Birri was in the Arab world the minister of resistance and the leader of liberation. After the camps war, he became a Sharon in some countries. In fact we have raised our voice, and injustice was done to us.

We have said that the Palestinian in Lebanon is a Lebanese, and vice versa. We have said that there is no difference between us. Anyway, following Syrian and Algerian mediations, we announced in Algiers that the war of the camps has ended forever. We said to them: If you want to stay in the east of Sidon, then you are welcome to do so. There are no sieges against the camps, and everything between us has ended. Currently, we do not have any Palestinian detainees. However, there are southerners with some Palestinian factions. All camps are open to their surroundings, and more than 200,000 Palestinians are coexisting very well with the southerners.

We now have information that there are intentions to enflame the situation in Sidon and Tyre. Currently, we are making contacts to prevent this explosion, which will only benefit Israel, because it will be a fight between two peoples. In Lebanon, no one wins. Amal did not achieve victory over the Palestinians, nor did the Palestinians achieve victory over Amal. It is a fight between people in which no one can achieve victory.

We hope that external plots will not be implemented at the expense of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples in the south. The south is the true Arab gate. We must preserve it and the resistance.

[Nasrallah] There are some who talk about a plan for resettlement [of Palestinians]?

[Birri] Resettlement will benefit neither the Palestinians nor the Lebanese. I believe we must resist it together because it is against Lebanon and against the Palestinian cause. Fighting between the Lebanese and the Palestinians will lead to resettlement.

[Nasrallah] After the killing of the three Amal leaders, there is some who talk about certain developments in the south.

[Birri] I say to you, and through you, that the Palestinian brothers had no connection with the killing of brothers Dawud Dawud, Mahmud Faqih, and Hasan Subayti.

The movement has unraveled the strings of this crime. The Palestinians are innocent and they had no connection with this crime. I do not believe that anything will happen in the south as a result of the killing of the three martyrs. The matter in the south is in the hands of the southern people. Political feudalism ended a long time ago. Other groups, with all their plans, have also gone.

[Nasrallah] Let us move to relations between Amal movement and Hizballah. Why did the mediation between the two sides fail?

[Birri] Amal is a Lebanese and an Arab movement. We have differences not only in opinions, but in matters of strategy. There are differences between us and the Communist Party for instance, but the difference between us and Hizballah is also connected to methods. For instance, there is a contradiction between us related to our stand toward the UN troops or the developments in the Lebanese arena.

[Nasrallah] You have always had certain remarks about the Iranian policy in Lebanon, whether about the whole situation or about Tehran's relations with some Shi'ite leaderships, particularly with you. Do these remarks still stand?

[Birri] I believe that officials in Tehran began to feel the results of what happened. I have repeatedly warned them. I told them on many occasions to pay attention to their policy and understand the reality. One of the things that distinguishes officials is their ability to read the future by understanding the present. I have warned them about the implications of Iranian policy, not only in Lebanon, but also in the Arab world and the world at large. I have information now that many officials in Tehran began to say that Birri was right. I hope they will understand what happened.

[Nasrallah] In conclusion, what is happening about the hostages? Is there a deal, as is frequently repeated, and where are they?

[Birri] This is one of the issues on which we gave our advice. We said that it distorts the history of Islam and the Shi'ites, and that it is against religion. The West does not need excuses to fight us. Yet, some have given it these excuses.

Soviet Envoy Terms Situation 'Complicated'

NC0811133088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha has expressed the hope that efforts being made by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar will produce results. He pointed out, however, that there are many difficulties on the local level which can affect the UN efforts.

Kolotusha described the situation in Lebanon as complicated, adding that it has been further complicated since 23 September.

Responding to a question, he pointed out that any effort requires consideration and consultation with the concerned Lebanese parties, as well as with those parties which have a role to play in Lebanon, specifically Syria. Kolotusha said that his country is concerned with the situation in Lebanon and wishes to help. He stated his country is now studying closely the stands of the parties concerned to find a suitable approach and activate efforts to find a solution. He denied the existence of a Soviet initiative at present.

He expressed the hope that conditions will not be further complicated after the Knesset elections in Israel.

Leftists, Pro-Syrians Form Operations Room

NC0911090988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] It has been learned that the leftist parties and pro-Syrian Palestinian facations have established a joint operations room to organize their action should the militias return to West Beirut.

The room is made up of 'Abbas Nasrallah for the Amal Movement; Jamal Hamad for the PSP; Ibrahim Hindiqli for the Ba'th Party organization; Ziyad Sa'b for the Communist Party; Mustafa 'Alawi for the Syrian Social Nationalist Party—Dawud Baz wing; Fayyad Haydar for the Nasirite organization; Colonel Muhammad Zahra for the Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah] group; Ibrahim Hammad, otherwise named Abu Fadi, for the PFLP; and Fawzi Zakariya for the Al-Sa'iqah forces.

Syrian Arrest Campaign in North Reported

NC0811180188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] The AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM news agency carries a report from the North, stating that Syrian intelligence personnel have conducted a large-scale campaign of arrests. This is part of a security plan launched 2 weeks ago with a view to gathering information on potential military and security operations against the Syrian forces in the North.

According to the report, these arrests took place in an area extending from Al-Kurah to Tripoli, and a large number of Sunnis were among those detained. Meanwhile, a security source has told AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM that over the last 4 days Syrian intelligence men have sealed off the Sunni areas in west Beirut, particularly Al-Bastah, and set up fixed roadblocks to check travelers' identity and search for arms.

New Group Vows To Attack Syrians in Tripoli

NC0911070188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] The so-called 16 January Organization for the Liberation of Tripoli [Munazzamat 16 kanun thani litahrir tarablus] has claimed responsibility for shooting Arab Democratic Party official Mustafa 'Id, the brother of the party leader. The organization issued a statement saying it will continue its military operations against the Syrian occupation forces and their agents in Tripoli.

Amal-Palestinian Clashes East of Sidon Reported

NC0811123088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] The combat lines of Al-Mujaydil, Al-Hassaniyah, Al-Ghaziyah, Maria, and the hills of Maghdushah were the scene of clashes between Amal and Palestinian gumen this morning. Heavy- and small-caliber weapons were used in the fighting.

Israeli 'Warplanes' Overfly Sidon, Camps Areas

NC0811200288 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over Sidon, the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miyah wa Miyah camps, and Iqlim al-Kharrub shortly after 2000 today. The planes fired flares. Antiaircraft fire was directed at the Israeli aircraft from positions manned by fundamentalist organizations and Palestinians.

Meanwhile, automatic weapons fire is being exchanged on the Kafr Falus, Lib'a, and 'Ayn al-Mir lines between the South Lebanese Army positions and fundamentalist gunmen.

The Maghdushah, Maria, and Al-Shawakir combat lines are the scene of intermittent clashes between Amal gunmen and Palestinians.

Jets Overfly Sidon, Camps 9 Nov

NC0911085988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over Sidon and nearby camps shortly after 0900 today.

Greek Foreign Minister Arrives on 2-Day Visit

Makes Statement to SANA

JN0811075888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Damascus—Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias and the accompanying delegation arrived in Damascus today on a 2-day working visit to Syria at the invitation of Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. He was also received by Yusuf Shakkur, assistant foreign minister; directors of the Western Europe Desk and Protocols at the Foreign Ministry; and the Greek ambassador in Damascus and Embassy staff.

In a statement to SANA, Papoulias expressed his pleasure at visiting Syria. He said he is carrying a personal message to President Hafiz al-Asad from Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, who shares a special friendship with President al-Asad. The Greek foreign minister said that his country's relations with Syria are excellent and are improving in a very positive manner. He referred to the important, leading role played by Syria in the region.

Papoulias explained that in its meeting, scheduled to be held on 22d of this month, the EEC foreign Ministers' political committee awaits the results of this visit and the talks with Syrian officials. He stressed that this visit will provide the opportunity to hold good meetings and discussions with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' that will deal with relations between the two friendly countries and means to bolster and improve them. He said: This visit comes at a very important phase for the region in general, the Middle East in particular, and for Greece, which is in the same geographical region.

Conveys Message to Al-Asad

JN0811153588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 0930 today Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias and his delegation. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Greek Ambassador in Damascus Yeoryios Konstandinou.

Papoulias conveyed to the president a message from Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou. Discussion revolved around the situation in Europe, forthcoming EC developments, and EC stands. Discussion also dealt with the situation and developments in the Middle East.

The president affirmed that the Arab position wants peace on the basis of the UN resolutions through an international conference formula under UN auspices to be attended by all parties as well as UN Security permanent member states to guarantee the Palestinian Arab people's right to self-determination, including their right to the establishment of their independent state. The president affirmed that no Arab can relinquish that.

The president added that Israel obstructs efforts to resolve the Middle East dispute and achieve a just peace. He said that the results of the Israeli elections have confirmed this. The president praised our people's uprising in the occupied Arab territories. He said this uprising constitutes an important stage in the Arab struggle against the Zionist aggression, an asset for this struggle, and a step toward full liberation.

Discussion also revolved around the developments in the Lebanese arena.

Holds News Conference

JN0911091888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias in the Foreign Ministry today. The discussion dealt with bilateral relations and ways of promoting them in all fields. The discussion also dealt with several issues of mutual interest.

Al-Shar' hosted a dinner this evening in honor of the Greek foreign minister and his delegation. The dinner was attended by ministers, senior foreign ministry officials, the Greek ambassador in Damascus, and the EEC ambassadors accredited to Syria.

Papoulias held a news conference this evening attended by the members of the delegation accompanying the Greek minister, the Greek ambassador in Damascus, and representatives of Arab and international news agencies in Damascus.

Papoulias affirmed that Greece allots special importance to the search for lasting solutions in the Middle East. He added that Greece has also communicated its viewpoints to the EEC countries from the premise that Greece is a member in the EEC and current chairman of the group. He stressed that the Middle East crisis and the Palestinian problem were discussed at the EEC countries' meetings on political cooperation.

On his meeting with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, Papoulias said: I will brief my colleagues in the EEC on 22 November on all the topics I have discussed, particularly those discussed during my meeting with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad which lasted 4 hours. I and my colleagues in the EEC view this meeting as very important. Papoulias said he believes that Papandreou will assess this meeting as positively as he himself is assessing it when he briefs him on the details of the talks with President Hafiz al-Asad.

The Greek foreign minister affirmed that his EEC colleagues await with great interest the details he will provide them on his meeting with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. He added: On this occasion, it pleases me to address my thanks and apreciation for his excellency President Hafiz al-Asad who granted me a lengthy and very important meeting, particularly at this decisive stage.

On Syrian relations with the European countries and Greece's role Papoulias said: Greece's role is well known, particularly in the sphere of improving relations between Syria and EEC countries. He pointed out that Syria plays an important role in the developments that are taking place in the Middle East.

On the state of affairs in the Lebanese arena Papoulias reiterated the stand of his country and the EEC countries rejecting the partitioning of Lebanon.

In reply to a question on Greece's stand on the uprising in the occupied Arab territories, Papoulias said that his country's stand is known and very clear, and that this uprising took place in a normal manner. It stems from the sentiments and hearts of the Palestinian people to regain all their legitimate rights. He added: No one can ignore these rights. We support the principle of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state.

He affirmed that Greece has condemned the ugly acts perpetrated by the Israeli forces in the occupied territories. He also expressed regret over the continuation of such acts by the Israeli forces, stressing that this state of affairs, in no way whatsoever, can help in seeking a solution to the problem. He also affirmed that the EEC condemns the Zionist acts of repression. He reiterated the call by Greece and the ECC for an international Middle East peace conference under UN aegis.

On the Cypriot issue and the dimensions of settling this issue, the Greek foreign minister said: We welcomed the initiation of the talks between President Vasiliou and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktas as well as the UN secretary general's initiative.

On Syrian-Greek relations, Papoulias said: These relations are taking place on high political levels. They are old relations of friendship, particularly with respect to my party and government. He added that economic relations betwen Syria and Greece could reach better levels, particularly because political relations are unique relations.

He explained that there are many factors which are behind the decrease in the level of these economic relations such as bureaucracy and the world economic crisis which recently emerged. He affirmed that Syria and Greece are eager to promote economic relations in a dynamic manner in the interest of the two countries.

Departs 9 Nov

JN0911100288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias and his accompanying delegation left Damascus this morning at the end of a visit to Syria at the invitation of Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. The visit lasted 2 days.

The Greek minister was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, the directors of the Western Europe Desk and Protocol at the Foreign Ministry, and the Greek ambassador and embassy staff.

Afghanistan

West German Medical Workers Released in Kabul

BK0911084688 Hong Kong AFP in English 0827 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov 9 (AFP)—Two West German medical workers arrested for alleged spying in Afghanistan were freed here Wednesday and handed over to West German diplomats, officials said.

The release of Dr. Benno Splieth and nurse Lea Hackstedt was at the order of President Najibullah, the officials said.

The two were handed over by the Afghan military to the West German charge d'affaires at a hotel in Kabul, the officials said.

The two West Germans were arrested September 9 in sensitive Gazni Province after they entered Afghanistan with the assistance of mujahidin rebels based in neighbouring Pakistan.

"It feels great to be free again", Dr. Splieth told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE moments after their release.

The two looked tired and spoke bitterly when asked questions by reporters. "This," Dr. Splieth said, pointing at two small packets, "is just a very small part of our baggage," referring to the carload of medical instruments they had brought from West Germany after being sent into this war-torn country by an organisation called German Emergency Doctors.

"We would be grateful to leave, we are thankful to this government that they allowed us to go," Lea Hackstedt said.

The two were first held at the Pol-e Charki jail but only last week were removed to another prison run by the Afghan KHAD secret police, sources here said.

Earlier President Najibullah had agreed in principle to release the pair following a clemency appeal from his West German counterpart Richard von Weizsaecker on October 25 .

Radio Kabul broadcast the same day that Mr. Najibullah had agreed to release them on humanitarian grounds and that a commission had been set up to finalise the arrangements.

Further on Vorontsov's Call for New Talks

LD0711220488 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1457 GMT 5 Nov 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] A meeting has taken place in Kabul between Comrade Vorontsov, USSR first deputy foreign minister and USSR ambassador to the Republic of Afghanistan, and members of the Foreign Affairs Commissions of both chambers of the Afghan Republic's National Council.

The ambassador pointed to Afghanistan's and the USSR's serious and constructive approach toward observing the spirit and letter of the Geneva accords.

In the opinion of the USSR and the Afghan leadership, the Soviet diplomat added, the time has come for a new international discussion on every aspect of the situation in Afghanistan and around it, because external forces—Pakistan and the United States—are involved in urging the opposition to continue the bloodshed.

Comrade Vorontsov noted that the deliveries of new peaceful long-range weapons to Afghanistan was a measure taken in response to the opposition's intensified military operations. Protection against attack is the sovereign right of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, he said.

Gulabzoy Accepted as Ambassador to USSR

LD0811161188 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] The letter of acceptance of the appointment of Sayyed Muhammad Gulabzoy as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary for the Republic of Afghanistan to the Soviet Union arrived recently.

Najibullah Interviewed on Geneva Accords

AU0811152488 Vienna VOLKSSTIMME in German 8 Nov 88 p 3

["Exclusive" interview with Najibullah, president of the Republic, by Werner Pirkner in Kabul: "Equal Rights for All Parties"; date not given]

[Text] VOLKSSTIMME: How do you assess the internal situation in Afghanistan that has developed as a result of the policy of national reconciliation and the Geneva accords?

Najibullah: The proclamation of the policy of national reconciliation has initiated a process of fundamental changes in our country. Far-reaching and consistent measures were taken that are aimed at the participation of all strata and classes in political power. Pursuing the goal of forming a national coalition government on a broad basis, we have examined the corresponding conditions and taken the first practical steps.

By adopting the law on political parties, the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan has abandoned its power monopoly. The country's new constitution grants equal rights to all parties. Elections were held nationwide, as a result of which respected representatives of the people were sent to the National Assembly and the peace parliament. The current government consists of representatives of three parties, including the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, and comprises ministers of the prerevolutionary cabinet.

Return of Refugees Under Way

Following the proclamation of the policy of national reconciliation, some 60 decrees have been issued and put into effect. About 165,000 refugees have taken advantage of the possibilities provided by the government and have returned to the country, overcoming obstacles that were put in their way by the ruling circles in Pakistan and Iran.

The signing of the Geneva accords provided a fresh boost to the efforts by the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan to enhance national reconciliation. Afghanistan, and this can be verified, observes this agreement in letter and spirit. On the other hand, the Geneva accords are not only being undermined but also grossly violated by imperialist circles which cooperate with the Pakistani militarists. Provocations and interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs are constantly taking place: Increased financial resources and modern weapons of mass destruction are supplied to the extremists.

We believe that, despite these provocations, the correctness of the policy of national reconciliation has proven itself because it is in line with the will of the people and because it is being confirmed by history.

VOLKSSTIMME: The April Revolution was a courageous attempt to lead your country out of centuries of backwardness in the interest of the people. What do you think are the essential values and achievements of the Afghan revolution? Is there agreement within your party where compromises are possible and where they are not?

Najibullah: The achievements of the April Revolution are beyond dispute and can be seen in all areas of life. The policy of national reconciliation is one of the achievements of the April Revolution. The Afghan people consider the preservation and protection of the accomplishments of the April Revolution to be the most important factor in safeguarding national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the well-being of the working people.

Irrespective of this, the changed situation and the people's interest in the termination of the war and lasting peace requires compromises. It is imperative to respect the wishes of the people and to take them into consideration. At the same time it must be pointed out that the proclamation of national reconciliation does not imply abandoning our great socioeconomic achievements, but expanding, developing, and consolidating them.

VOLKSSTIMME: The Afghan and Soviet sides have furnished proof of their loyalty to the Geneva accords, whereas Pakistan and the United States are not meeting their obligations that result from this agreement. The international community also has great responsibility in this respect. How does it meet this responsibility?

Najibullah: Whereas the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union are consistently observing the agreements in detail, the governments of Pakistan and the United States, signatories and guarantors of the agreement, openly violate the obligations to which they agreed. For this reason, we expect all peace-loving countries in the world, particularly United Nations members, to become active in accordance with the exemplary nature of these agreements, and to start their peace mission.

The United Nations should call on Pakistan as a signatory and the United States as a guarantor—also by exerting international pressure—to observe the accords. Only in this way can the United Nations meet its historic responsibility for safeguarding peace in this part of the world.

VOLKSSTIMME: The world public has welcomed with great interest your proposal for a meeting of the Afghan parties to the conflict in Mecca, Geneva, or elsewhere. What do you think about an early cease-fire in Afghanistan?

Najibullah: We have noted with great satisfaction that the proposal for negotiations, meetings, or simple exchanges of views between the Afghan Government and the opposition in the holy city of Mecca, with the aim of effecting peace through negotiations, has met with a positive response both among the Muslim people of Afghanistan and in the international arena.

[Paper continues with a report on the interview] "The Afghan people want peace; they hate war." President Najibullah says this with great emphasis, understanding it as a message to the world. The policy of national reconciliation is, above all, in line with this desire for peace. For this reason, an increasing number of Afghans will follow this policy. Of course, it is not easy to consistently stick to the course of national reconciliation, if the government is facing an "alliance of irreconcilable forces," whose only goal is the subjection of the people's power, Najibullah stresses.

The policy of reconciliation has created additional problems, Najibullah concedes. However, as his countrymen would put it, great leaps are only possible on asphalt roads. And there are only very few such roads in this mountainous, underdeveloped country, Najibullah points out.

Weapons Returned to Manufacturers

The president repeats the proposal to collect all weapons and return them to the manufacturer, a proposal he submitted recently. According to Najibullah, the Geneva agreements could become a model for the solution of regional conflicts all over the world, if they are really implemented. For this particular reason, the international community should attach great significance to the observance of the Geneva agreements.

The Afghan president puts it quite frankly: "We are not satisfied with UN activities in connection with finding a solution to the Afghanistan problem." The United Nations is not making enough effort to verify the observance of the Geneva accords. In this connection, Najibullah calls for a Security Council session which should investigate the continued violations of Afghanistan's security and integrity.

It is not only the security of Afghanistan that requires a de-escalation of the situation around Afghanistan. The Geneva accords provide for the unhindered return of the refugees, the elimination of the headquarters and camps of the Afghan counterrevolutionaries on Pakistan soil, and a halt to the weapons supply. If this were realized, the entire international situation would improve decisively, Najibullah emphasizes. For the time being, however, the opposite is happening.

What is taking place now is terrorism. Missiles are being fired at civilian targets, which mostly affect children. "This is naked terrorism," Najibullah states. Vigorous countermeasures by the world public are required to prevent this from becoming common practice.

"We believe that the United States and Pakistan do not benefit from this. Quite the contrary," Najibullah points out. "If they would assume their share of responsibility and contribute to fulfilling the Geneva agreements, the international public would appreciate this accordingly."

"However, if they continue to act without any sense of responsibility, neither we nor the Soviet Union will remain passive," the president of the Republic of Afghanistan concludes.

Milli Shura Approves Najibullah Proposals

LD0411190088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 4 Nov 88

[Excerpts] As announced earlier, the Milli Shura in its general session on 1 November unanimously approved a resolution on the draft proposals contained in the speech by President Najibullah at the joint session of the Senate and the Wolasi Jiergah. Here is the text of the resolution:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Understanding fully the existing situation in the country and with a feeling of responsibility for the country's future, we elected the representatives of the people to the Milli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan, and we follow with great interest all the measures taken for the most fundamental issue of our society, that is, the issue of peace and war, along with our future development.

The speech by Esteemed President Najibullah to the joint session of both houses of the Milli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan contained a specific analysis of the country's situation and new proposals for the implementation of the national reconciliation policy. [passage omitted]

After a comprehensive study and unanimous assessment of the continuing work, struggle, and search for a political solution to the present situation in the country, the proposals by the esteemed president of Afghanistan have attracted the attention and interest of the Milli Shura, particularly regarding the following points: —The appeal by the Republic of Afghanistan to the UN Security Council to assess the situation arising from increased interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and the violation by Pakistan of the Geneva accords, which threatens Afghanistan's territorial integrity and national sovereignty; —The appeal to international organizations to force the Pakistani Government to observe the provisions of the Geneva accords, specifically the provision concerning the refugees; —The appeal to convene an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations Organization and the initiative of the UN secretary general himself to call this conference to discuss Afghanistan's neutrality, the guarantee of the international community to provide disinterested assistance for Afghanistan's socioeconomic development and the creation of the means to implement it; —International guarantees for the defense of human rights in Afghanistan; —The demilitarization of Afghanistan and the collection of all weapons from the country in order to hand them over to the producer countries; and —The formation of a broad-based coalition government, neutral and acceptable to all sides in Afghanistan.

It is our aim and will, with the help of Almighty God, to achieve peace and security in our war-torn country and to use all our efforts to ensure this national cause. To meet the historical and very urgent demands of our society both nationally and internationally, the government, through the appropriate Senate commission, must inform the members of this house about the development of contacts with the parliaments of other countries, primarily the parliaments of the Islamic countries. Success comes from God!

'Fundamentalist' Rebel Wants Early Elections

BK0711163488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1628 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] London, Nov 7 (AFP)—The leader of one of Afghanistan's Moslem fundamentalist groups, Gulbuddin Hikmatyar of the Hezb-e Eslami movement, called here Monday for elections to be held in Afghanistan "as soon as possible".

Mr. Hikmatyar said elections to the "shura"—parliament—should be organised with a view to forming a government.

He said a committee had already been set up by the mujahidin alliance to set a date for the election and decide who should be allowed to vote.

Asked if women would be allowed to vote, Mr. Hikmatyar said only that "Islam has given equal rights to men and women."

Mr. Hikmatyar said "the only solution is the unconditional withdrawal of the Soviet troops and the formation of an elected government." He said "95 per cent of our territory has been liberated and is under control of the mujahidin."

He said the government of Afghan President Najibullah "will probably fall before the completion of the (Soviet) withdrawal but it has to fall after."

Mr. Hikmatyar, who visited France before coming to Britain, ruled out a return to power of former Afghan King Zahir Shah. "Our nation will never accept him again. If there is elections, there is no place for that and people like that," he said.

The Hezb-e Eslami leader said the problem of prisoners of war and missing Afghan soldiers would be discussed "publicly and directly" with the Soviet Union as part of a "package solution".

Tanay Assails Internal, Foreign Enemies

LD0911065088 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov 8 BAKHTAR—The bloody war has been leashed by the internal and foreign enemies of the people of Afghanistan to achieve their sinister aims, says Lieutenant General Shahnawaz Tanay, defence minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, in an interview to a BAKHTAR reporter.

The opposition groups, he continued, under the pretext of defending Islam are cruelly killing the innocent Afghans including the women and elderlies. They also kill the people and destroy the public utilities in the cities and capitals of the provinces by launching surface-to-surface rockets on the cities and other parts of the country.

They have caused the death of hundreds of civilians by firing rockets and different cities such as Kabul, Jalalabad, Paktia, Khowst and Kapisa and other regions are still subject to their rocket firings.

The blocking of highways to traffic including the two vital highways of the country, Kabul-Hairatan and Kabul-Jalalabad and attacks on supply and other state and personal vehicles are among the priority subversive activities carried out by the opposition groups.

Another point of attention here is this that the armed extremist groups stationed in Pakistan and Iran have not yet solved their differences for taking power in the country, distribution of looted properties among them and other anti-humanistic acts committed by them.

As a result of the clashes which occurred last week among the extremist bands in different parts of the country hundreds of extremists were killed and tens of them wounded.

These clashes are clear witnesses of this fact that enemies of the people of Afghanistan do not have other aims except hegemonism, plunder and murder, Tanay said.

Replying another question on arming Afghan Armed Forces with new armaments and technics, Tanay said that the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan with having a vast political vision, sound reason and humanistic feelings has announced the policy of national reconciliation as the only alternative for war in the country.

The Governments of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union faithfully signed the Geneva agreements in the hope that it will bring peace and security in Afghanistan. After the signing of which the Afghan and Soviet sides are honestly observing provisions of Geneva agreements in full.

It was as a result of this optimism that fifty percent of military contingent of the Soviet Union left Afghanistan for their peaceful country.

Also, on the basis of further expansion of ideas of the policy of national reconciliation and expressing loyalty to the Geneva agreements, a number of detachments and contingent of the Armed Forces of Afghanistan evacuated some frontier lines for the purpose of creating demilitarised zones and to provide better facilities for the return of refugees back home.

The Government of Pakistan and leaders of the opposition have not given positive responses to the humane call of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan and the objective need of the people of Afghanistan on peaceful solution of the situation around Afghanistan, cessation of war and fratricide in the country.

The minister added that the opposition leaders are sunk into their evil dreams and thoughts as if they would obtain the political power through military superiority and continuations of war.

The state of the Republic of Afghanistan, on the basis of the evil intentions of the extremists, received modern weapons from the Soviet Union for strengthening of the defence ability of the country and elevation of the combat capability of the Armed Forces.

These weapons, he went on to say, which are present in Kabul give possibility to the Armed Forces to inflict heavy blows to the extremists, the enemies of peace and security of the Afghans.

"We have received these weapons for peace, defence and cessation of war, not for aggression" he stressed.

Regarding the expansion of war dimensions by the international enemies of the Republic of Afghanistan and the opposition, strengthening of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan is our prior duty and we are attentive to this fact.

The defence minister went on to say that the Armed Forces of the country equipped with modern weapons are capable to crush at any time those who [words indistinct] interested in the destiny of the people of Afghanistan. At present measures and effective steps are taken for further strengthening of the Armed Forces and elevation of their combat capacity, the minister stressed.

Sharq Delivers Najibullah Message to UN Chief

LD0811232288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, met UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar yesterday afternoon at the UN Headquarters in New York.

During this meeting, the prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan handed over a message from Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, to His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general, and spoke with him about the recent developments in the Republic of Afghanistan, the government's future programs, and the implementation of the Geneva accords.

His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar was asked to exert moral pressure on the relevant parties to observe the Geneva accords.

The text of the message from Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar is as follows:

His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general:

Your Excellency,

Taking advantage of the meeting of the prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan with Your Excellency in New York, I express my best wishes for your good health and once again I would like to draw your attention to the following points:

The people of Afghanistan, who are tired of the 10-year-long difficult, fratricidal war, attach enormous importance to your efforts to restore peace and revive Afghanistan, and they commend your role in achieving the Geneva accords.

While attending the 30th special UN session on disarmament, I briefed you on the circumstances surrounding the implementation of the Geneva accords, the result of 6 years of enormous efforts by Your Excellency and Mr Diego Cordovez. The situation remains unchanged; that is, the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, with utmost honesty, have carried out all their responsibilities vis-a-vis the accords. However the other side, in particular Pakistan, continues to violate the articles and paragraphs of the Geneva accords which have created a firm base for the restoration of peace and stability in the region and the improvement of relations between the two neighboring countries.

As a result of repeated violations of the Geneva accords, the situation in our region, in particular around Afghanistan, has become completely tense, complicated and difficult, and the implementation of these accords has been confronted with a serious crisis. Therefore, the circumstances surrounding the implementation of the Geneva accords, under the present unpleasant conditions, requires your direct and urgent intervention, Esteemed Excellency.

We believe that the failure of the Geneva accords is not only the failure of efforts to achieve a political solution to the situation in Afghanistan but it also damages or even renders meaningless the general belief that these accords serve as a good example for the solution of other regional issues.

I would like to state explicitly that the present situation is unacceptable to the Republic of Afghanistan and, as far as we know, the Soviet Union also, as one of the guarantors of these accords, is unhappy with this situation and is now in a difficult position especially with regard to the other guarantor, the United States, which disregards its commitments.

The people of Afghanistan, who have had enough war and bloodshed and are thirsty for peace and tranquillity, are hopeful that Your Excellency will use all available means to fully implement the Geneva accords in order to bring about peace and stability in the region and end the fratricidal war in Afghanistan.

Your major outstanding role in ending the war between Iraq and Iran has been highly praised throughout the world and your similar role in the restoration of peace in Afghanistan will always be remembered.

I would like to assure you that the Republic of Afghanistan has taken all the necessary measures to initiate dialogue with all opposition groups to ensure the application of a cease-fire and the creation of a broad-based coalition government which guarantees the interests of all the parties to the conflict. The Republic of Afghanistan will continue its indefatigable efforts to achieve this objective.

Allow me to express once again my best wishes for your further victories in the service of world peace.

[Signed] Najibullah, President of Afghanistan

Meets With U.S. Council

LD0611065888 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov 5 BAKHTAR—Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, who is in New York to participate in the UN General Assembly was a guest at a dinner on Nov. 3 hosted by the Council of International Relations.

The prime minister explained to the audience at the Council about the current situation and the policy of national reconciliation.

The Council of International Relations is an American influential social organisation since 1921 for discussing foreign relations issues and a number of American well-known scientific and socio-politico figures are its members.

Likewise, the Afghan prime minister received today in New York with the head of UNDP [United Nations Development Program] and exchanged views on the projects and UNDP's assistance to Afghanistan.

Refugees in Pakistan 'Exploited' in Elections

LD0911065688 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov 8 BAKHTAR—For the victory of the Muslim League Party in the coming elections in Pakistan, the Afghan refugees once again are exploited by the state of Pakistan, reports reaching BAKHTAR say.

Ten thousand identity cards have been put by the Pakistani state at the disposal of Gulbuddin, Rabbani, Sayyaf and Khalis extremist ringleaders to distribute them among those Pashtoon refugees living in Peshawar, Mardan, Kohat, Dir and Swat to cast their votes in favour of that party. The Pakistani intelligence is also directed to distribute such cards in all localities frequented by Afghan refugees and extremist bands.

Pakistan 'Blatantly Violating' Geneva Accords

LD0811191988 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] BIA's military section reports that Pakistan is continuing its interference in Afghanistan and blatantly violating the Geneva accords. Despite the false claims by Pakistan's rulers, in addition to arming the extremists, they do not hesitate to send their military advisers to Afghanistan, together with other country's advisers, attached to extremist terrorist groups.

For example, at the begining of Aqrab [beginning 22 October] two American and two Pakistani advisers arrived with armed extremist groups in areas bordering Zabol Province and Pakistan and convened a meeting of extremist groups in order to redsolve their mutual differences.

Presenting medals and cash, the American and Pakistani advisers encouraged the criminal extremists to continue killing our compatriots, although their hands are already stained with the blood of hundreds of our compatriots, including women, children, and elders. This again testifies to U.S. and Pakistan's blatant violations of the Geneva accords.

However, all these last ditch efforts by the United States and Pakistan have been futile and the armed extremists' internal differences have intensified in various regions, causing the death of hundreds of the warring groups. For example, because of bloody clashes which took place recently between the Rabbani and Gulbuddin extremist groups in Chahar Bulaq District, Balkh Province, 11 extremists were killed and another one was seriously injured.

In similar clashes in Shindand District, Herat Province and Aqchah District, Jowzjan Province, 13 belligerents were killed and another 3 seriously injured.

115th, 116th Protests Notes Given to UN Mission

LD0811195288 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Afghanistan this afternoon submitted the 115th and 116th notes on Pakistan's violations of the Geneva accords to the UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] office in Kabul. The note states that Pakistan's supplying weapons, particularly long-range rockets, to the extremist elements in clear contravention of the Geneva accords result in the deaths of our innocent compatriots. The UNGOMAP was also asked to investigate the violations and report the findings to the related parties and the UN secretary general's representative.

Negotiations Continue Despite Increased Fighting

BK0711111188 Hong Kong AFP in English 1058 GMT 7 Nov 88

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 7 (AFP)—Diplomats here say that discreet global negotiations have begun in a bid to work out an Afghan peace plan despite the recent upsurge in fighting.

The Soviet Union has recently sent MiG-27 and SU-22 jets as well as surface-to-surface SS-1 Scud missiles to help the Kabul regime, which has been under increasing pressure from rebels in Qandahar and other border provinces.

The mujahidin have claimed recent victories, announcing last week that they had captured Towr Kham, the main Afghan-Pakistan border post in the Khyber Pass.

The resistance said Sunday [6 November] that Kabul forces had fired SS-1 missiles at rebel positions in the eastern border province of Konarha, which the mujahidin claim to completely control.

A diplomat here said the Soviet military reinforcements were meant to shore up the Kabul government so it was not in a weak position before negotiations.

The diplomat compared the increase in fighting to the resumption of U.S. bombardments of North Vietnam only a few weeks before the January 8, 1973 peace accord signed by Vietnamese negotiator Le Duc Tho and then-U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

But United Nations negotiators remain confident. "All the pieces are falling into place," said one.

The head of the seven-party mujahidin alliance, Burhanuddin Rabbani, is currently in New York for several planned meetings. He met a U.N. representative for the first time last week in Islamabad.

Meanwhile, Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, the head of the fundamentalist Islamic Hezb-e Eslami guerrilla faction, is visiting Britain and France.

An observer said the temporary halt in the withdrawal of Soviet troops, announced by Moscow Friday, was part of the strategy in the negotiations.

Negotiators have two months to find an "honorable solution" for the Soviets and their communist allies in Kabul on one side and for the rebels on the other, added the observer.

The departure of Afghan President Najibullah and Prime Minister Hasan Sharq appears unavoidable, but Moscow is demanding that the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan be able to continue participating in politics "under another form," sources close to the negotiations said.

Major General Najibullah has already said in private that he would resign, but only if it would facilitate a "credible" global accord, said a diplomat who had just returned here from Kabul.

The meeting in two months time of a shura, or assembly, grouping some 400 people, including mujahidin leaders and "good Muslims" representing the Kabul communists, could pave the way for Mr. Najibullah, said an observer here.

The Pakistani Foreign Ministry would like the shura to elect Zahir Shah, the former Afghan monarch, as head of state, but prefers that the exiled leader confine himself to the role of "conciliator." Moscow and Kabul appear to agree.

But military and secret service figures here, as well as certain fundamentalist mujahidin leaders, want the shura to dismiss the Zahir Shah option once and for all, informed sources said.

Islamabad policy on Afghanistan has lacked some direction since the death in August of Pakistan President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, a strong supporter of the rebels, and in the run up to the November 16 legislative elections here, said the observers.

'Extremists' Killed; Rockets Fired on Kabul

LD0811192288 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] The BAKHTAR military section, quoting authoritative sources in the Afghan Armed Forces, reports that yesterday and today they inflicted crushing blows on the fiendish nests of armed extremist elements and achieved great successes. During these mopping up operations which were carried out in Nangahar, Zabol, Qandahar, Paktia, Konduz, Farah, Herat, Parvan, and Badakhshan Provinces; 966 warmonger extremist elements, including their 7 leaders, were killed and 53 others were wounded; and 18 extremists, including 1 ringleader, were captured.

As a result of Armed Forces operations in Nangahar Province 95 extremist elements were killed in the areas of (Maro) and Towr Ghar. One set of surface-to-air stinger rockets and three sets of rockets have been captured.

According to a report from Zabol Province, Engineer Khodadad, general commander of Gulbuddin band in the province, was killed along with two other group leaders (Muhammad Wudud) and (Mahd Rauf). Enemy weapons and equipment have been destroyed.

Also, as a result of successful operations by the Armed Forces based in Qandahar, 13 extremists were killed and 2 rockets, one recoilless rifle, and 10 enemy hideouts were destroyed.

In an operation by the Armed Forces at [word indistinct] in Seyyed Karam District, Paktia Province, five terrorists associated with extremist groups were killed, eight others were wounded, and two DShK's were destroyed.

Continuing the Armed Forces' mopping up operations in Konduz Province, 75 people associated with Rabbani were killed and 15 others wounded; 12 people along with their arms, consisting of 2 machine guns, 1 recoilless rifle, and 19 small weapons have been captured. Two extremist ringleaders were among those killed. The report adds that a mortar, one arms depot, and two machineguns were destroyed.

During operations carried out by the Armed Forces in the area of Bala Boluk, Qal'eh-ye Khan and (Poshtrod) areas in Farah Province three criminals were killed and six others, including a ringleader, were captured. An arms and ammunition depot was discovered and the contents were captured.

In an operation carried out in the Pashtun Zarghun area of Herat Province five extremists were crushed and one Pakistani citizen was wounded yesterday.

As a result of yesterday's operation by the Armed Forces in Parvan, 31 extremists were killed. In Badakhshan 36 warmongering extremists were crushed and 30 others wounded. Four heavy arms and four enemy hideouts were destroyed. The morale of the warmongers has been weakened by Armed Forces' blows as they face total defeat.

The BAKHTAR military section also reported that at around 1330 today, elements attached to the armed extremist groups, supported by the United States and Pakistan, tried to cause a tragic mishap near the engineering faculty of Kabul University by planting a quantity of explosives there. This evil conspiracy was detected and foiled by the security forces.

The criminal extremists last night once again savagely attacked the residential regions of Kabul city by firing seven surface-to-surface missiles which injured two of our compatriots.

One of these missiles hit a spot in front of the Afghanistan Bank in (Nader Pashtun) Street and another one hit the Shahzada market.

As a result of firing surface-to-surface missiles on the surroundings of Khowst major district, two people were injured and two houses were damaged.

[Words indistinct] and the shrine of Balahesar of Zabol were damaged as a result of heavy weapons fire by extremists. This inhumane action by the criminal extremists has aroused the repulsion of the people in Zabol Province.

Mujahidin Capture Garrison in Nangarhar Province

BK0911033888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, the mujahidin have captured (Khari) garrison in Nangarhar Province. They have destroyed 11 security posts, captured more than 100 Kabul soldiers, and seized several armored cars and a large quantity of ammunition.

Reports say that the Afghan regime's recently acquired new MiG-27 aircraft bombed the Ghazni Kheyl garrison, which is under the control of the mujahidin. Scud missiles were also fired on mujahidin positions in Nangarhar and Kabul Provinces yesterday.

Mujahidin Operations Near Qandahar Detailed

BK0911133888 Hong Kong AFP in English 1322 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 9 (AFP)—The Afghan Army's Militia Headquarters near southern Qandahar city has fallen to the rebel guerrillas, resistance sources said Wednesday.

Troops at Chehel Zina base, only six kilometers (four miles) west of Qandahar, surrendered to the mujahidin after exhausting arms and ammunition in more than two months of fighting, they said.

The base, with a strategic mountain location, was important both to the mujahidin and the Afghan Army. The sources said the mujahidin suffered heavy losses in the prolonged fighting.

Chehel Zina, also known as Sar Bouza, lies in mountains overlooking the highway linking Qandahar with western Herat bordering Iran.

The resistance sources said the mujahidin surrounded the base and engaged the besieged troops in prolonged fighting.

They did not give exact casualty figures but said 30 soldiers were killed in a major offensive on the eve of the fall.

Rebels captured 15 militia soldiers and few supplies, they said adding that the mujahidin seized four cannons including a 176 mm gun and a tank.

The troops could have resisted more had the rebels blockade not prevented reinforcements, they said.

According to Afghan sources, with the fall of Chehel Zina the Afghan Army has lost control of the western sector of Qandahar city already threatened by the mujahidin.

In another development, Kabul regime officials surrendered to the rebels an important irrigation project at Bande Sarde in nearby Ghazni Province.

The staff requested protection from the rebels which they granted, a spokesman of the moderate resistance group said. The staff gave them dozens of tractors and trucks, light weapons and nine tanks guarding the facility, he said.

Meanwhile the official Afghan BAKHTAR news agency monitored here Wednesday said Afghan troops killed 454 rebels in a series of mopping-up operations in Nangarhar, Zabol, Qandahar, Paktia, Konduz, Herat, Parvan, Badakhshan and Farah Provinces on Monday. It said 24 saboteurs were captured in the nine provinces.

Bangladesh

President Ershad Congratulates Bush on Victory

BK0911125088 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] The Bangladesh president has felicitated Mr George Bush on his election as the president of the United States. In a message, President Ershad expressed his conviction that under the able leadership of Mr Bush the American people will not only march toward greater prosperity and happiness but will also make still greater contributions to the promotion of world peace and stability.

President Ershad also expressed the hope that the warm closeness and cooperation that so happily characterize the relations between Bangladesh and the United States will acquire greater depth and dimension in the years ahead. President Ershad also wished for good health and long life of Mr Bush and the continued progress of the friendly people of the United States.

India

President Congratulates Bush on Election

BK0911085088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] The president, Mr R. Venkataraman, has greeted Mr George Bush on his election as President of the United States. In a message, he said being the two largest democracies in the world India and the United States share many common traditions and perceptions. Mr Venkataraman expressed the hope that in the years to come both the countries will draw on these common values to further enrich their relationship.

Bangladesh 'Stridency' on Water Issues Viewed

BK0811114588 Delhi PATRIOT in English 27 Oct 88 p 4

["Comment" column entitled: "Troubled Waters"]

[Text] The issue of controlling and sharing waters of common rivers has for long now become a source of constant irritation in Indo-Bangladesh relations. Despite efforts, no lasting solution acceptable to both sides has yet been found. The Joint River Commission, which met some 30 times and produced no few memoranda of understanding, the Joint Committee of Experts, which too met and inspected the ground several times, and successive summits have all yielded measures which have proved to be only ad hoc, temporary arrangements.

Given that experience, the Joint Task Force, created during the Rajiv Gandhi-Ershad summit in Delhi on 29 September, does not evoke much optimism. The Task Force, whose first scheduled meeting in Delhi on 22 October was put off because Indian Irrigation Secretary Naresh Chandra was taken ill, is now due to meet in Dhaka early November, but there is no promise that any more workable solution to the river waters issue would be found than in the past. The point is that, despite successive summit-level accords in 1972, 1975, 1982 and 1985, a permanent solution has proved elusive because of the two sides' differing perceptions and approaches.

Though India has raised Bangladesh's share in the Ganga waters from 11,000 cusecs in 1975 to 34,500 cusecs in 1985 in the lean season, Bangladesh has not felt it necessary to reciprocate by scaling down its stridency. Indeed, President Ershad in recent times sought to play upon the big-power-small-neighbour syndrome, and internationalise what essentially is a bilateral problem. His domestic political compulsions apart, Bangladesh clearly hopes that shrill stridency will yield more concessions from India.

The fact that over the last few years India has yielded considerable ground to Bangladesh—it agreed to a joint committee of experts, and also to making Nepal a party to river waters talks—has apparently prompted Dhaka to ask for more. The hard postures of Bangladesh do not facilitate any serious, sincere dialogue on the issues. The flow of the waters from India into Bangladesh is a purely bilateral issue, and must be settled on that basis.

Dragging in Nepal or China does not make the solution any easier. And, while one could support Dhaka's demand that New Delhi should control the floods, it must be pertinent to ask what measures Dhaka has taken to ease its own problem in its own land.

Iran

Government Ready To Normalize Saudi Relations

LD0811174488 Kuwait KUNA in English 1503 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 8 (KUNA)—Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad 'Ali Besharati Tuesday said his country was ready to normalize relations with Saudi Arabia and indicated that the Kingdom has a role in establishing peace in the region.

"Let bygones be bygone. We should not run back to the past," Besharati told a press conference, in reference to a scathing war of words between Iran and Saudi Arabia since mid last year.

Relations between the two Gulf countries soured dramatically when Iranian Muslim pilgrims rioted bloodily during the hajj season in Saudi Arabia in the summer of 1987, leading Riyadh to break off diplomatic relations with Tehran last April 26.

The Kingdom at the time cited Iran's "violation" of good neighborliness and of international laws governing relations between states."

"We too are willing to normalize relations with Saudi Arabia," Besharati said pointing out that he was responding to a recent similar goodwill gesture by Saudi Arabia.

He was referring to a statement by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal who told a ministerial gathering for the Gulf Cooperation Council in Riyadh last week that his country was ready to normalize relations with Iran.

The Iranian official emphasized that his country does not want its relations with Riyadh to remain severed, "especially that we have to benefit from Saudi's [as received] role in bringing about peace in the region."

Besharati, who arrived in Kuwait Monday night after visits to Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, also recalled that Iran matched Saudi Arabia in reducing media attacks against the Kingdom.

He said better relations between the two countries would serve the interests of the two sides.

The Iranian official called for "turning a new page" in relations among countries of the region but ruled out that his current tour would take him to Saudi Arabia, citing lack of diplomatic relations.

Diplomatic Relations With UK To Resume 'Tonight'

LD0811164888 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran and Britain are to resume normal relations. According to the Central News Unit, the countries' representatives, by signing a statement and a memorandum of understanding, will begin normalization of their diplomatic relations tonight, stressing the three principles of mutual respect, noninterference in each other's affairs, and brotherhood.

IRNA on British Moves

LD0811181288 Tehran IRNA in English 1748 GMT 8 Nov 88

["Iran-U.K. Near Agreement on Relations After Over 50 Hours of Talks"—IRNA headline]

[Text] London, Nov. 8, IRNA—Agreement on restoration of relations between Britain and Iran is seen delicately balanced as Foreign Office Undersecretary in London Sir David Myers stands by to resume negotiations in Vienna.

The Foreign Office has increasingly been cautious announcing any progress after over 50 hours of intensive talks have already taken place between British and Iranian officials in Geneva, New York and London but agreement on normalising talks is now said to be near.

A spokesman confirmed Tuesday that a "further round of high-level talks would be necessary for an accord to be reached" but was reluctant to state that this would be in Vienna, where Iranian officials are assembling.

He refused to comment on what progress had been made, but it is understood that a draft joint-statement is being drawn up that spells out that a restoration of relations must be based upon mutual respect, strict non-interference in internal affairs and reciprocity.

It is further thought underlining an agreement is a memorandum of understanding that has been thrashed out in the painstaking talks and sets the framework for relations based upon British acceptance of Iran's sensitivity of its past record of interference but is not for publication.

Britain pulled out of the last round of formal negotiations held in Geneva in early October for high-level consultations in London and the Foreign Office spokesman admitted for the first time that Sir Geoffrey Howe had since sent a message to Tehran.

His message to Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati expressed hope for a speedy agreement and in response the Iranian foreign minister is said to have commented on how the talks should proceed.

Since its initial hopes of sending a diplomatic team to Tehran following Howe's announcement of agreement in New York on September 30 the Foreign Office has been distinctly more calculated in its attitude that is thought to be behind its current reluctance to advertise any progress. At the same time, the British press has also come to accept that it has been Britain, and not as mistakenly viewed Iran, that has been doing all the running to end its diplomatic isloation of being the only European country without representation in Tehran.

UK Minister Announces New Credit to Iraq
LD0811231588 Tehran IRNA in English 1709 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] London, Nov. 8, IRNA—British Cabinet Minister Tony Newton returned from Baghdad Monday night unrepentant about his visit to boost a new line of medium term credits aimed at securing post-war contracts in Iraq.

His 4-day visit took place amid a background of protests about Iraq's widespread use of outlawed chemical weapons led by the House of Lords upper parliamentary chamber but he said that he hoped his trip would pave the way for increased British trade.

He announced new government-backed credit facilities of 340 million pounds for 1989, virtually double this year's amount and maintained that the increase reflected the "confidence of the British Government in the long term strength of the Iraqi economy," despite its estimated debts of over dollars 100 billion.

U.K. exports to Iraq have shown a 40 per cent fall in the last few years due to the war-devastated economy of the latter. In the first 8 months of this year, sales stayed around 1987's low totally just over pnds 250 million compared with nearly half a billion pounds in 1985 and 1986.

The new credit line is the 7th since the Iraq-U.K. commission was set up in 1981 but the first when it has not been at war with Iran and Britain hopes to capitalise on projects in power generation, steel production, petrochemicals, port rehabilitation and ship repairs.

A breakdown shows pnds 200 million in medium term credits for general purpose lines, pnds 75 million in three half-yearly installments for pharmaceutical and humanitarian products and pnds 65 million for a power station contract, which had been hoped would have been separate.

The facilities are supported by the Export Credit Guarantee Department, which has already admitted having over pnds 1 billion worth of high-risk debts in the Third World, and implies that any non-payments are borne by British tax- payers.

In addition, the British trade minister said that short-term cover of 180-360 days would continue to be provided outside the protocol and that the U.K. was also offering increased industrial training for Iraq in Britain.

Larijani Meets With Soviet Envoy to Tehran
LD0811171888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Mr Larijani, deputy foreign minister in charge of European and U.S. affairs, today met with the Soviet ambassador in Tehran. Mr Larijani said: The fragile nature of the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq must come to an end.

This meeting was held this morning at the Foreign Ministry. Mr Larijani added: The two countries' forces must return to the internationally recognized borders; however, Iraq refuses to withdraw her forces.

Mr Larijani also stressed that Iraq should abandon the illusion of extracting concession from Iran. The international community must adopt a more decisive position against the Iraqi threats.

The Soviet ambassador, who had returned from a trip to Moscow, talked with the deputy foreign minister in charge of European and U.S. affairs about the Soviet First deputy foreign minster's imminent visit to Iran.

He also provided Mr Larijani with a report on the latest developments in the economic-political changes in the Soviet Union as well as his country's points of views on problems related to the Persian Gulf and the trends in implementing Resolution 598.

USSR's Bessmertynkh To Visit 'Shortly'
LD0811184188 Tehran IRNA in English 1732 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 8, IRNA—Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh will shortly visit Tehran, announced Soviet Ambassador Vladimir V. Gudev Tuesday in a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani. Larijani welcomed the Soviet official's visit to Iran.

Gudev briefed Larijani on the latest developments concerning the Soviet Union's eco-political scene as well as his government's viewpoints on issues concerning the Persian Gulf, and the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

Industrial Cooperation Letter Signed With PRC
LD0811164288 Tehran IRNA in English 1513 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 8 IRNA—A letter of understanding on Tehran-Beijing industrial cooperation was inked today by visiting Chinese Deputy Minister of Machine Building, Electronics and Industries [title as received] Zhao Mingsheng and Deputy Minister of Heavy Industries Mehr 'Alizadeh.

According to the signed letter of understanding, Iran and China will cooperate in designing, engineering and manufacturing of equipment for refineries, power stations, ports and jetties as well as production of industrial parts and exchange of raw materials.

On the basis of the letter of understanding, Iranian and Chinese technical experts agreed to cooperate in joint manufacturing plants, compressed reservoirs, boilers for sugar factories and other factory machineries and equipment according to international standards.

The Chinese official arrived here on October 30 at the head of a delegation.

Japanese Envoy Meets With Plan, Budget Minister

LD0811204888 Tehran IRNA in English 1744 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 8, IRNA—Japanese Ambassador Yoshiro Fujimoto held talks with Minister of Plan and Budget Mas'ud Roghani-Zanjani Tuesday on mutual economic cooperation particularly during post-war reconstruction period in Iran.

Roghani-Zanjani, referring to the ongoing Iran-Iraq peace talks in Geneva, said the Islamic Republic expects other countries to put pressure on the Baghdad regime to truly accept U.N. Resolution 598 and stop hampering the U.N.-mediated negotiations.

He said that reconstruction of oil refineries, petrochemical and steel industries and power plants tops Iran's rehabilitation projects.

Among other topics discussed by the two was mutual cooperation in setting up a computer network at the Plan and Budget Ministry of Iran.

Commentary Advocates Following Imam's Guidance

NC0911110688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Central News Unit research group commentary on Imam Khomeyni's reply, now known as "the charter of brotherhood," to Hojjat ol-Eslam Ansari's letter]

[Text] In his reply to the letter written by Hojjat ol-Eslam Ansari, the imam of the nation has once again stressed his earlier position. The imam has put special emphasis on the important principle, on (?acceptance) of the revolution, which is the element of unity and solidarity of Muslims in general, and administrative officials, people, and the political factions loyal to the revolution in particular.

The leader of the revolution has constantly and repeatedly stressed—during years of prolonged struggle against the idolatrous system and in the aftermath of the Islamic revolution—the unity of the Islamic ummah. The imam has called Muslim solidarity and unity the sole means of liberation from foreign and oppressive domination in the first and second manifestos of the revolution as well. Once again, in this brotherhood charter, his eminence the imam has referred to unity of the country's political factions along a general axis, which is the foundation of the Islamic revolution's strength.

The clarity and explicit nature of these remarks is such that there is no room for ambiguity from officials or in the political trends in the country. In other words, the imam of the nation has given us the essence of the matter, and has, as he stated himself, thus performed his duty. Obviously, his meticulous viewpoint, which is embodied in this message, and his patient deliberation on the issues mentioned therein, will tear away the veils of doubt and uncertainty, and the policy of the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic will emerge clearly and more accurately than before.

In this regard, it is imperative that the upright offspring of the revolution follow the imam on his path and support the (?infallible) leader of the Islamic revolution and the oppressed of the world in proving the truth of his course and thinking. Following the imam has until now been beneficial and, in the interests of Islam and Muslims, will once again ensure greater solidarity of political parties loyal to the system.

In his fraternal message, the imam of the nation alluded to the historic trend of jurisprudence and theological scholarship [ejtehad] in seminaries, and said that a difference of opinion among Islamic jurisconsults has always been present and the major Shi'ite texts of jurisprudence are replete with such diverging opinions. However, this situation does not indicate any deviation from the path of Islam and the path of truth by Islamic jurisconsults.

Now, when the Islamic revolution is being propounded more than ever in society and solutions are being presented by administrative officials and experts on Islamic issues to the people, the situation requires that the people be informed of the opinions and (?debates) of the country's leaders, who greatly influence them. On the one hand, the door to theological scholarship is open and Islamic jurisconsults propound different viewpoints, and the nature of the revolution and the system constantly dictates that theological and jurisprudent views on various topics, even though contrary to one another, should be propounded freely. No one can prevent this.

What demands intensive attention at this juncture is how government and society, based on the Islamic system, can plan for the benefit of Muslims. Therefore, unity of approach and action is compulsory and necessary.

The propounding of views and diverse opinions on governmental and social matters by jurisconsults should be based on an intensive and deep understanding of government and society, so that they can discern what is in the interest of the society. In general, awareness of social and political issues should be based on strong insight and have solid, principled foundations. It is in this manner that the jurisconsult can carry out theological research into governmental matters.

The imam's explanation of this issue can, more than ever, serve to coalesce the major political parties of the country, most of which are comprised of revered and combatant personages. Examples of the country's issues that are linked to the system's issues in general are the issue of ownership and its (?limits); the issue of land and its distribution; the issue of booty taken from infidels [anfal—reference to early days of Islam] and public wealth; complex issues of cash, foreign exchange, and banking revenues; domestic and foreign trade; issues pertaining to art such as photography, painting, sculpture, music, and others; and issues of environmental protection of nature.

In all these cases, correct and useful (?research) can help in the (?accurate) recognition of social and governmental issues. Failure to recognize these issues will result in a lack of intensive theological scholarship based on Islamic tenets, and it is for this reason that his eminence the imam does not consider theological scholarship in seminaries enough. It is the obligation of seminaries to engage in research and expansion of theological scholarship on current issues in society and bring about changes and a revolution that should be in harmony with the widening trend of the Islamic revolution and Islamic government.

As in the past, seminaries should embark on studying the new humanities and should learn about and deliberate on their various aspects, and thus assist in their becoming stronger and more fruitful so that they can nurture such priceless gems in their midst as Mirza Shirazi, Modarres, and Imam Khomeyni. These individuals are models for mankind, and by emulating and following them the world of oppression can be transformed.

Continuing his message, the imam of the nation referred to the main principle of unity and called on political factions to follow it. Stressing that positions should confor with the safeguarding of Islamic tenets until eternity, while maintaining their anger and revolutionary hatred, as well as that of the people, against Western capitalism spearheaded by the world-devouring United States.... [sentence left incomplete as signature tune for international programming interrupts]

Majlis Member Comments on Anti-Arrogance Day

LD0411071588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1200 GMT 2 Nov 88

[From the program "The Majlis and the People" an interview with Majlis Deputy Seyyed Hadi Khamene'i by unidentified Majlis correspondent; date, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In its open session on Sunday, the Majlis approved the double-priority private members bill on designating 4 November as the National Day for Campaigning Against Global Arrogance and the world-devouring United States.

Thus, from now on, every year will remain in our history as a memorable and important day. This day glorifies the sacred anger of the Iranian nation against arrogance, especially the world-devouring United States. By enacting this private members bill, the Majlis in reality has taken an effective step in preserving the nation's sacred anger against the enemies of Islam and the revolution. As a result, it has immortalized this day in our contemporary history. [passage omitted]

The idea is for the enemies of Islam not to entertain the hope that the Islamic revolution has deviated from its aspirations or that it might abandon its sacred goals. [passage omitted]

Our Majlis correspondent has interviewed Mr Hadi Khamene'i on this issue, as follows.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Dear listeners, you know that 4 November has been designated by the Majlis as the National Day for Campaigning Against Global Arrogance, with the world-devouring United States at its head. We had a talk with His Excellency Seyyed Hadi Khamene'i, a member of the Majlis. Mr Khamene'i, I thank you for giving some minutes of your time to our program. Now, tell us what was the motive for naming such a day as the National Day for Campaigning Against Global Arrogance?

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With greetings to the imam of the ummah and to all the dear listeners. The main objective was somehow to immortalize the many years of our nation's struggles against the United States, to immortalize these struggles as a lasting movement that also is based on the principles and norms of the Islamic revolution. This is also something on which the imam of the ummah always has emphasized.

Our aim was to immortalize the day in such a way as to attain both a national and historical character, and also to provide hope for all the peoples in the world. The idea is for the peoples of the world to know that arrival at such phases in the war as cease-fire or peace will never entail the abandoning of this strategic goal.

Originally, it was decided to table the private members bill with regard to the United States. The United States was the real target because the United States is the country, the superpower, that campaigned against our nation until the victory of the revolution. It has fought against us; it has committed treason and crimes against us, and it continues to do so now. The imam of the ummah has even said that the Soviet Union is an entity being manipulated by the United States.

In any case, we recognize the United States as the leader of all the tyranical and world-devouring superpowers. Therefore, we want the facts of our campaign against the United States to remain in our history. We want all our coming generations to have this fact instilled in their memory.

This was the principal objective, to name the United States, but the ensuing debates came to the conclusion that the issue of designating a day must assume a greater generalization; it must comprise all the arrogant entities of the world. Therefore, it was decided that the term arrogance must be used. Yet, at the same time, it was decided that another word should be added. Thus, the name of the United States at the head of arrogance was added to the private members bill.

[Correspondent] Excellency Khamene'i, please tell us, in your view, how the designation of 4 November as the National Day for Campaigning Against Global Arrogance will influence the trend of the struggles of the heroic people of our country?

[Khamene'i] Its influence is this: that the people should never forget the strategic goals of the revolution. In fact, the presence of the leadership on the scene and its being the sole provider of the trend in the struggle will insure our objective. Indeed, we were inspired by the imam to table this slogan, this private members bill. We received the emphasis to continue the struggle from the imam personally.

We saw that the imam has always wanted us to maintain the principal line, including during these latest occasions such as the elections for the third Majlis. On these latest occasions when the imam has issued statements, everywhere there is an emphasis on maintaining the principal slogans, as well as strong positions against the colonialists, especially the United States.

Therefore, since the direction of our Islamic revolution is the imam's line, the line of the pure Muhammadan Islam, we believe that knowing the enemy is one of the principles that requires that we always must name the symbol of the enemy. We must warn the people and the nations against the enemy. Of course, we have other enemies; the Soviet Union is one of our great adversaries with whom we will continue to have differences.

It ranks as arrogant, but we must never forget that the United States has been at the top of the list of our enemies. In all our work, in reconstruction and in scientific, cultural, and production efforts, we must remember that we must never go in any direction the United States wants. The United States wants us to be dependent in politics, in culture, and as a result in social and economic affairs. [passage omitted] We must be on our guard against all such dependency in all our planning efforts. [end recording]

Reportage on Musavi's Tour of Khorasan Province

Urges 'Vigilance' of Masses

LD0811173688 Tehran IRNA in English 1704 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Tabas, Khorasan Prov., Nov. 8, IRNA—Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi said here Tuesday that the world has now realized that Islam is quite able to lay the foundation of a universal government. He said the global arrogance is frightened of this.

Musavi, here on an inspection tour of the province, cautioned the Muslim people of Iran to maintain their vigilance because, he said. Enemies will continue their cultural, political and economic plots against them.

Contrary to the global arrogance claims that Islam, as a system of government, was unable to solve the current problems of the world, the resistance of the Iranian people is the best proof of Islam's ability to meet all needs of the humanity, Musavi said.

Addressing a group of people at Birjand in this northeastern province today, Musavi said Iran's Muslim people have proved they are able to stand on their own feet and foil their enemies' plots. This is a good example for the oppressed peoples of the world, he added.

Despite various economic and cultural plots, the culture of the Islamic revolution has spread its roots in the country and the government has solved many domestic economic problems, Musavi said, adding these are among achievments of the revolution.

Visits Development Projects

LD0911102688 Tehran IRNA in English 1002 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Tabas, Khorasan Prov., Nov. 9, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi currently touring Khorasan Province of Iran surveyed several on-going development projects undertaken by the Construction Jihad at the province.

The premier arrived at Mashhad Monday night accompanied by Minister of Construction Jihad Gholamreza Foruzesh and local officials here.

The prime minister said that the Construction Jihad should participate in post-war reconstruction of the country. He said because of its experience in serving the less privileged areas in Iran and its significant contributions to the war efforts the Construction Jihad is expected to play a prominent role in national construction efforts.

Meanwhile, the premier surveyed mining operations at a mine pit near here Wednesday. The coal reserves of the province is estimated to be about 726 million tons.

Musavi also attended a meeting of the local 'ulema and officials Tuesday night and also met with commanders of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps and the Islamic Revolutionary Committees, and discussed local issues with them.

Iraq Opposes Plan To Implement Resolution No 598

LD0811224988 Tehran IRNA in English 2236 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, Nov. 8, IRNA—Iraq said for the first time that it did not accept a plan drawn by the United Nations to implement some of the main provisions of Resolution 598. Iraq's Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz also admitted that Iranian forces were not holding any Iraqi territory.

In his clearest statement yet on Baghdad's position towards U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's four-point implementation plan, 'Aziz said the plan compromised the resolution as a whole.

"We have to take the resolution as an integrated whole. It is not helpful to take a number of paragraphs in the resolution and put them in a package," he said after Tuesday's talks. Iran had repeatedly said that Iraq was opposed to the plan but until now Iraq had not publically clarified its stand.

"There is no final formulas to be accepted or rejected," the Iraqi foreign minister claimed. The secretary general's plan was proposed to the two sides in New York last month to carry out the preliminary articles of the resolution.

It has not been officially revealed but it is believed that it calls for the withdrawal of forces to internationally recognized borders, freedom of navigation, exchange of war prisoners and settlement of the Arvand River dispute.

"Since 25th August any plan that was offered by the secretary general or his personal representative was ruled out by Iraq. Iraq has refused to accept any of these plans," said Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

He said Iraq in particular was opposed to the withdrawal of troops.

The Iraqi foreign minister confirmed Dr Velayati's statement in an interview with IRNA Monday that Iranian troops were not holding any Iraqi territory.

"I think no part of Iraq is under the presence of the Iranian Armed Forces. Our troops are still in some chunks in Iranian territory," he said. Dr Velayati had said Iraq still occupies more than 1,000 sq kms of Iranian land, including two towns but 'Aziz refused to call the presence of Iraqi forces in Iran as an act of occupation. "I will not call it occupation because it has a legal and political meaning," he said.

Neither side spoke in detail about Tuesday's plenary session chaired by U.N. Special Representative Jan Eliasson who described the talks as positive and useful without reporting any progress.

There will be separate meetings between the foreign ministers and Eliasson Wednesday followed by a plenary ministerial meeting on Thursday.

Earlier Iran and Iraq said they had agreed to release and repatriate all sick and wounded prisoners of war.

The International Committee of the Red Cross would not confirm the deal which seemed likely following 'Aziz's announcement that Iraq had accepted Iran's offer to exchange the sick and wounded prisoners.

The Iranian foreign minister emphasized that Iran was prepared to repatriate these prisoners unilaterally. It was now up to the Red Cross to arrange the operation.

"We are ready to release them unilaterally the sick and wounded POWS and there is no obstacle in the way of this matter." Added Velayati: "On the basis of agreement between us and the ICRC we can do it from tomorrow. There is no problem."

There are 1,115 and 411 ill and injured POWS registered by the Red Cross in Iran and Iraq respectively. The real number is thought to be higher as not all the POWS have been registered.

Iraq Agrees to Exchange of Sick, Wounded POW's

LD0811151088 Tehran IRNA in English 1501 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, Nov. 8, IRNA—The exchange of all sick and wounded prisoners of war in Iran and Iraq will go ahead after the apparent agreement by both sides.

"We have no problem on the exchange of the ill and injured pows," Ayatollah Mohajerani, head of the Iranian POWS Committee said Tuesday. "It now depends on the Red Cross to arrange the timing," he added.

Earlier Iraq's foreign minister Tariq 'Aziz announced the acceptance of Iran's offer to release and repatriate these prisoners.

Iraq is ready to start "immediately" the exchange of sick and wounded prisoners, he said after meeting the International Red Cross Committee president. There are 411 and 1,115 ill and injured prisoners of war registered by the ICRC in Iraq and Iran respectively.

The agreement, yet to be confirmed by the Red Cross, was the first sign of progress in the peace talks which have failed to produce results since they began on August 25. But analysts have been cautious in reacting to the limited POW exchange, stressing that there are still major issues to be resolved.

The Islamic Republic, citing the urgent need to consolidate the ceasefire, has demanded the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598's second article on the withdrawal of troops to internationally recognized borders.

In his statement after meeting the ICRC head, the Iraqi foreign minister seemed to link the repatriation of injured POWS with the release of all registered POWS. The repatriation of the registered POWS, numbering about 20,000 in Iraq and 50,000 in Iran, should start "at the same time" as the exchange of the sick and wounded, he said.

The Red Cross has not confirmed or denied whether an agreement had been reached. Talks on finalizing the exchange were still underway. "We cannot make any statement until there is something concrete," said ICRC spokeswoman Francoise Derron. "We are not going to comment in the middle of negotiations."

According to the Geneva Convention prisoners of war must be released and repatriated without delay after the cessation of active hostilities. It gives priority to the ailing and hurt prisoners. So far Iran and Iraq have repatriated 770 and 645 POWS respectiavely.

The two delegations will hold a plenary meeting under the mediation of U.N. special representative Jan Eliasson this afternoon.

Statistics Official on Rural Cottage Industries

NC0811094388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] We will now report on an interview with the head of the Iranian Statistics Department. He assessed the results of the census taken on the rural cottage industries of the country:

The head of the Iranian Statistics Department disclosed that the census of the rural cottage industries was conducted by the Iranian Statistics Department in cooperation with the Construction Jihad Ministry in all the provinces of the country during the 2d half of Khordad [22 May-21 June] and the first half of Tir [22 June-22 July]. He revealed that the results of the census show that of 88,997 rural cottage industries, 23,400 are devoted to carpetweaving.

This census also shows that most of the rural cottage industries are located in Khorasan, Esfahan, and East Azarbayjan Provinces, respectively. Ilam, Boyer Ahmad va Kohkiluyeh, and Bushehr Provinces have the least number of such units.

The head of the Statistics Department added: Of the country's districts, Qom has the largest number of rural cottage industries, 25 percent. The smallest number of such industries in proportion to population is located in Boyer Ahmad va Kohkiluyeh, Ilam, Kordestan, and Baluchestan va Sistan Provinces. According to the results of this census, the provinces of Khorasan, Esfahan, East Azarbayjan, Tehran, Mazandaran, Kerman, and Gilan comprise 67 percent of the country's cottage industries.

He noted that 492 rural industrial units employ 50 or more persons and are located in Tehran, Kerman, West Azarbayjan, and Esfahan, and in the central provinces. The head of the Statistics Deparatment added that Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari, Kordestan, and Ilam Provinces, as well as Gorgan District, have only one workshop each, and thus have the least number of large cottage industries.

In conclusion, he added: There are no major cottage industries in the provinces of East Azarbayjan and Boyer Ahmad va Kohkiluyeh, and in Qazvin.

Morning Paper ABRAR Resumes Circulation

LD0811174388 Tehran IRNA in English 1731 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 8, (IRNA)—An Iranian morning daily "ABRAR" resumed circulation with a new format here today after nine months of closure.

The paper in its editorial explained reasons for its close-down. Insufficient supply of paper, it said, was among the reasons.

ABRAR which is printed in the Keyhan Institute under the management of Ghafur Garshasbi is a political, social, cultural and economic newspaper.

Munitions Plant To Manufacture Steel Ingots

LD0711111888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] The electric arc furnace and a number of weapons production lines were commissioned at the munitions plant affiliated with the Defense Industries Organization this morning.

With the commissioning of this furnace, steel ingots—which have so far been imported—will be manufactured at the complex.

The construction and starting-up of the furnace was carried out by the workers and specialists of the munitions plant of the Defense Industries Organization.

Commentary on Overcoming Problems in Education

NC0611204488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 6 Nov 88

[Commentary by the Central News Unit research group]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Since the outset of the revolution, our country's first priority has been the issue of education and training. However, there were many obstacles and problems in this field, some of which still exist today. [passage omitted]

One problem that may affect training and education and even the economic and social fields is the lack of attention to unbridled population growth. This growth can create social imbalances in society if there is no accompanying development in educational and health facilities.

Meanwhile, some problems are visible in the fabric of education and training, an extremely important area as far as our youth is concerned. After the revolution, education and training faced many problems and despite steps taken, shortcomings continue to exist in society. Some of these stem from the Ministry of Education and others from different elements. If the current process continues and if we do not introduce extensive and thorough programs, the current problems in education and training will increase.

An educational system without managerial weaknesses, without bureaucracy in executive affairs, and with an adequate number of experts is needed in order to to train a large number of people. [passage omitted] Laziness, making excuses, and entertaining doubts should stop in order to achieve this goal, and effective steps should be taken to overcome problems in the education and training of more than 12 million students.

For years it has been said that a program to improve students' education and training is being compiled. However, very few programs have been proposed. There is no doubt that long-term educational programs must be introduced at a suitable time. However, experts in educational affairs believe that we should not wait around for the approval and the implementation of a program to make changes in the educational system—something that require some time—but that we should implement short-term, thorough programs.

Moreover, the problems in the education and training field stem from two other elements as well: schools and teachers. Schools can play an important role in the mental and moral growth of our youth. An important point here is that there is discrimination in some educational districts. It has been seen how certain schools in some educational districts enjoy better facilities—a situation that will result in higher standards in these schools in comparison with other schools to which less attention is paid.

This process of the polarization of schools will have grave consequences. If this is not controlled, the educational forces will gradually favor these schools and children of low-income families in deprived areas will, in the long term, be deprived of educational possibilities and, ultimately, face educational stagnation.

The final element that can help remedy the training and education of youth is the teaching cadres in the schools. According to regulations, there should be 1 teacher for every 250 students. More attention should also be given to choosing teachers. It is better for the teachers of the children of our society to be experienced people who are acquainted with psychological and scientific learning along with religious issues. Many experts believe that the teachers should be well-versed in literature, culture, and creativity so that they can better serve the youth be drawing from these rich educational fields.

Finally, in view of the fact that during the next decade there will be 20 million students in the country, it is necessary for the competent officials not to mark Education and Training Week by organizing a number of seminars and ceremonies, but by giving more thought to the irreparable damage that can happen if educational programs are implemented too slowly.

Maldives

Indian Navy Returns Plotters, Hostages to Male

BK0811143988 Hong Kong AFP in English 1429 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] Male, Nov 8 (AFP)—An Indian frigate steamed into Male harbor Tuesday [8 November] carrying 65 people allegedly involved in a failed coup last week and eight of the people they had taken hostage.

Another four hostages were expected to arrive Wednesday aboard a second frigate, sister ship of the INS Godavari, Captain S.V. Gopalachari said. The alleged coup plotters—63 Sri Lankans and two Maldives citizens—were turned over to the Maldives authorities.

Tears, applause and a brass band greeted the hostages as they landed at the presidential jetty at twilight to a personal welcome from President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom.

Mr. Gayoom has announced he will go ahead with plans for his inauguration for a third consecutive five-year term on Friday despite the coup bid which left at least 15 people dead in Male.

Four hostages died aboard a freighter commandeered by the plotters to escape after Indian troops intervened at Mr. Gayoom's request. Two of the hostages were shot in cold blood, the captain said, but he gave no further details.

Male, capital island of the Maldives archipelago, was slowly returning to normal Tuesday, with a handful of tourists walking the grey sand streets, past whitewashed walls pockmarked by bullets from the coup bid.

Banks and some shops began opening Tuesday, although schools and offices remained closed.

Joint patrols of Indian and Maldives soldiers continued mopping-up operations Tuesday although Indian forces were beginning to pull out.

Maldives Foreign Minister Fathullah Jameel said it would be a phased withdrawal, with some Indian troops remaining "as long as their presence is necessary".

Maldives National Security Services (NSS) spokesman Major Mohamed Zahir, his left arm bandaged from a bullet wound, said the forces now held some 150-160 people.

Major Zahir said that the majority of those detained for questioning so far were Sri Lankans who had been living in the Maldives for a relatively short time. Local sources said the Sri Lankan community on Male totalled about 1,000.

Sri Lankan visitors to the island and Maldives citizens who had planned to leave the country were initially barred from departure but would be allowed to travel from Tuesday, Major Zahir said.

Those held for questioning included some 30-40 Maldives citizens, Major Zahir said.

He said it was too soon to tell who was behind the coup, although Maldives officials earlier said that a Maldives businessman, Abdullah Lutifi, had taken an active part. Indian sources said he was on the frigate which returned to Male.

Sri Lankan mercenaries were said to have made up the major part of the force which stormed Male island during the early hours last Thursday [3 November], taking control of most installations except the fortified NSS headquarters.

Major Zahir said eight NSS men died in the firefight, along with four civilians and three of the attackers, now said to number around 70.

They fled, however, in small boats when the Indian planes landed at nearby Hulule airport with the first contingent of paratroopers.

Maldives residents said several small boats were missing, which might mean some of the attackers had escaped.

Many of the attackers were believed to have boarded a freighter, the Progress Light, which was spotted by the Indian Navy at the weekend and arrested.

The freighter, under tow to return to the Maldives after sustaining serious damage in the encounter, capsized and sank during the night but those on board had been transferred to the Godavari.

Major Zahir said those eventually charged in the coup attempt could face the death penalty, an unusual sentence in the Maldives where murder brings only a life sentence.

"We are a very quiet, a very peace-loving people," he said, adding that most crime was of the petty theft variety.

Gayoom Receives 8 Hostages

BK0811162888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1543 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Text] A message just received says eight hostages rescued from the mercenaries involved in Thursday's coup attempt in Maldives were handed over to President Gayoom in Male today. He received them personally. The hostages reached Male this afternoon on board the 'INS Godavari.'

The mercenaries and the crew of the ship 'Progress Light' in which they were fleeing will be handed over to the authorities in Male tomorrow. The 'INS Godavari' is now anchored at Male.

'Small Force' of 500 Indian Troops To Remain

BK0911033288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Official sources said in New Delhi that a small force of 500 Indian troops will remain in Maldives till the situation in the Indian Ocean archipelago stabilizes. About 350 troops have been withdrawn from Male in the last 24 hours. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

President Congratulates Bush on Election Victory

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[Text] The president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has congratulated Mr George Bush on his victory in the U.S. presidential election. In a congratulatory message to him, the president has expressed the confidence that the close relationship between Pakistan and the United States, designed to promote peace and stability in this region, would gain further strength during Mr Bush's presidentship.

Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan further said: The clear verdict of the American people in your favor is a befitting tribute to your outstanding qualities of leadership and unmatched record of distinguished public service. The president hoped that under the leadership of Mr George Bush the United States' commitment to the cause of peace and freedom would not only be sustained but also further consolidated.